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CALIFORNIA

AND ITS

RESOURCES.

A WORK FOR THE MERCHANT, THE CAPITALIST, AND THE EMIGRANT.

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LONDON:
TRÜBNER AND CO., 60, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1858.

[The Author reserves the right of translation.]

LONDON:
J. AND W. RIDER, PRINTERS, BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE.

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The discovery of gold in California and Australia forms the commencement of a most important era in the commercial history of the world; or, to use even a wider term, in its *general* history.

The great progress made since the beginning of the present century in the mechanical arts, and the numerous inventions of labour-saving machinery, had materially changed the features of industry and commerce; and the cheap production and consequent consumption of most articles of necessity and luxury had greatly increased.

We will not enter into a discussion on the *nature* of this change; but there can be no doubt that this enormous increase in industrial and other products had created a desire for the more convenient exchange of all commodities, thereby causing an increased demand for the representative medium of all values—the precious metals.

Whether this demand for a greater supply of the precious metals was *severely* felt at the time, and whether the expansion of trade in general was seriously impeded, may remain a matter of conjecture; but it cannot be disputed that the discovery of large quantities of gold in California, and subsequently in Australia, gave a most powerful impulse to commerce in all parts of the world.

The large amount of gold becoming current in so short a time, and swelling the mass of the circulating medium, facilitated all sorts of commercial operations. The export trade, especially to the gold countries, became extended, and whilst the gains acquired by miners, merchants, industrials, and all others who participated in them, directly or indirectly, circulated freely among all classes of

society, industry and trade at home (*i. e.*, in the old countries) largely increased in consequence.

These effects, we believe, are universally acknowledged.

For the last eight years the stocks of gold bullion have increased by about 200 millions sterling, or 5,000 millions of francs.

The world has become richer by these large sums—enriched by the actual possession of more treasure. Whatever fictitious or real claim as to lasting and intrinsic value gold, silver, jewels, and other highly prized materials may have, the more we have of them, the more value we possess—the richer we are; and this principle applies as much to the wealth of the world at large, as it does to the wealth of an individual. And besides the immediate stimulating influence of such increasing riches upon our industry and commerce, we believe that the general welfare of the world depends as much on these effects as it does upon the actual positive possession of the valuable substance, whatever be the secret of its lasting value.

We do not purpose here to speak at length of the *intrinsic merit*, so to speak, of these gold discoveries; but we will suppose, for instance, that instead of the value represented by such large amounts of gold, we had received from either country an equivalent in other produce, in cotton, corn, sugar, silk, or other necessities or luxuries of life, would the world generally be better off than now? Or, have we gained more by the additional quantity of virgin, virtuous, but corrupting gold?

We incline to the latter opinion. Although the value of gold in figures may seem theoretically to depend upon the existing quantity of commodities for which it forms the exchange, still, the reverse is actually the case. Recognizing, as we do, that gold is a substance of such high value, and, on account of its virtues as the most noble of the metals, making use of it as the representative of all other produce, natural and artificial, the latter thus becomes in reality dependent upon the standard value of the precious metal. Mother Earth furnishes us with a constant supply of nourishment, and we can at any time draw on her stores by the simple exercise of our physical powers; and by these same powers we could also increase almost indefinitely our industrial produce:

but we cannot make gold. The general and steady advance of late years in the value of labour and produce has been caused by the greater amount of gold existing generally.

A certain kind of philosophy induces most men to reflect occasionally upon the question — *Why is gold so valuable?* All these reflections end in the same unsatisfactory manner: no definite answer can be given. Many of these philosophizers even evince a hatred against gold and its satellite, silver—not against these metals themselves, for they are only too eager to obtain them—but against their overwhelming and almost boundless influence. But however strong this hatred, it is totally powerless either to successfully combat or secretly undermine the wonderful power which these metals exercise. The ocean wave, which dashes in its blind fury against some adamantine rock, and recoils in foaming rage after each repulse, is a fit emblem of this hatred and its impotence to affect, in the slightest degree, the stability and magnitude of the power of gold.

Who invested this old, and yet still youthful, tyrant and his vassal, silver, with such irresistible power? It cannot be simply because mankind, on imaginary grounds, have agreed to accept it as the great representative or circulating medium, that it has acquired such importance.

The vulgar argument about a solitary man on an otherwise uninhabited island finding gold of little or absolutely no value, whatever quantity he might possess, is quite true; and would be almost equally so of one or two hundred, or more, similarly situated. But place a larger number, say 10,000 or 20,000, in a position where they will fairly represent the general social system of mankind, with all its refinements, its advantages, and defects, and gold will immediately assert its power.

Again, from the fact that, some hundreds of years ago, a certain piece of gold would purchase ten sheep, whereas it will now purchase but one, and so forth, it is argued that the more gold we get the cheaper it becomes. This fact is also incontrovertible, if we accept sheep as the representative value; but we may reverse the case, and, basing the argument upon our own theory, say that sheep and other things have become more valuable in consequence of an increase of gold;

and any general increase in value is an evidence of improvement. In support of this, and similar views, we have again the indisputable fact that the power of gold is still undiminished—nay, that it has materially increased in its universal action.

The rise in the price of living and dead produce is secondary upon the effects of the gold supplies upon the value of labour; and as long as this latter is kept above the value of commodities, the benefits to society in general are evident.

Again, it is asked how it happens that platina, for instance, a substance even scarcer than gold, and just as noble in its nature, is not of greater value? Well, if platina were discovered in larger quantities, sufficient to form a currency, we have little doubt of its obtaining a certain success, although the experiment totally failed in Russia. For this purpose, however, it is, as we said, too scarce. Add to this, that it cannot be worked as easily as gold, it being impossible to melt it, or even weld pieces of any size.

Among the many sophistical arguments of these unbelievers in the stability of the value of gold, we often meet with the following: —Supposing gold became as plentiful as iron, what would its value be then? We have no doubt that in that case a very considerable decline in its value would take place. But, supposing even this, it possesses such intrinsic value for mechanical and other purposes, —in its indestructibility, &c., that its use would confer benefits upon mankind incalculable in their magnitude. The very idea of such a case ever occurring is, to say the least of it, preposterous. The total amount of all the gold produced since the Creation is supposed to be about 2,500 millions sterling, a quantity equal in weight to about 11,000 tons, and which would form a cube of about forty feet in length, breadth, and depth.

The total quantity of iron produced, and at present existing, is estimated at 600 millions of tons, being more than 50,000 times the weight of the mass of gold, and about 80,000 times its volume; or, again, 500,000 and 800,000 times the quantity furnished by California and Australia.

To base an argument on such a ground is, therefore, simply ridiculous; and the question finds a ready answer in the fact that

iron, copper, and other metals, are increasing at a similar or still higher ratio than gold. The latter will, therefore, ever continue to retain its proportionate scarcity.

Gold possesses higher qualities than merely those required to constitute a representative medium. What would be the value of gold were it not employed as money? We fancy it would be worth almost *more* than at present; but we will not here discuss that point; its intrinsic virtues are well known; and, therefore, we assert there is no purely fictitious value attached to gold—a something that might pass away like other modes and fancies.

A man possessing a mass of gold has under his control a certain proportionate amount of the gifts of nature, and of the actions of his fellow-creatures; and the present character of man must be totally annihilated, or undergo a complete change, ere he would lose this power.

Gold is *treasure*, and in the word *treasure* lies a wider meaning than *representative* or *circulating medium*.

The secret of this mighty influence is one of the most difficult, and yet highly interesting, problems in the history of mankind; and we believe it will remain so: at any rate, we do not profess to be wiser than our generation in arriving at its solution.

The great body of the earth is composed of many different substances, each possessing peculiar virtues and attributes, and of consequently more or less value in the eyes of us mortals; and it is our belief that even beings superior to man would recognize these qualities, and make similar distinctions; nay, more, it was the Creator himself who, in his infinite wisdom, introduced these influences into our sphere; and with Him rests the secret of their power.

In the precious metals, then, we recognize the motive power of all industry and commerce—the mediator between man and man in their efforts to nourish, comfort, and gladden each other. We regard gold as the life-blood necessary to give increasing action to the body of the social system; and we deduce from that, that any addition to such an invigorating and powerful metallic fluid is a positive gain to mankind, and an inestimable gift of the Creator.

Here we must stop, for fear our personal enthusiasm for the material in question might take a metaphysical turn.

The gain in gold is, in itself, immense; but in its effects, as we have said before, it is equally important. The condition of society at large has been improved by them to a very great extent; and this improvement has gone on hand in hand with the increasing quantity of the precious metals. The rapid strides made in industry in the present century were followed by a providential rapid increase of gold, as if these elements were closely related.

The gold discoveries gave an impulse to commerce and industry, followed by a signal improvement in the material and social condition of mankind. Nobody will deny the existence of a greatly improved state of things, visible in the condition of almost all classes, in England, France, Germany, the United States, &c., consequent upon these large extra supplies of the circulating medium. The manufacturing and agricultural population of England has benefited by the change; the merchants have become wealthier; property has risen in value; the financial condition of the country has greatly improved; and, but for the late war with Russia and the present troubles in India, with their attendant evils—increased taxation, disturbed state of trade, &c.—the improvement in the well-being of all classes would be still more marked and decided.

The same remarks will apply to France.

Germany, which has enjoyed peace for the last five years, can likewise point to the better social condition of her population in general. The poorer districts now wear a more cheerful aspect; wages are higher than ever they were before; and the amount of the precious metals in circulation has been estimated at nearly double what it was a few years back.

In the east of the United States the improvement has been quite as decided. Since the arrival of gold from California, long lines of palaces attract the eye in the principal cities, and a proportionate increase in the conveniences and luxuries of life, consequent upon the freer circulation of money, is enjoyed by their inhabitants.

But whatever may be the *now* already perceptible effects of the recent gold discoveries, or the consequences of a continuation of the supply, it is impossible to ignore that they are destined to exercise a most powerful influence on the future welfare of mankind.

The weight and importance of this consideration will be enhanced to every thinking mind, when we assert, that without scarcely a *shadow of doubt*, both California and Australia will *continue* to *furnish gold*, in almost the same yearly ratio, *for years*—aye, for *scores of years* to come.

It is, of course, impossible to say how much more gold is hidden in the bosom of the earth in these countries, obtainable by more or less labour, and with, perhaps, increased inducements, leading to the employment of improved machinery, thus facilitating the obtaining of the precious metal, and thereby increasing the amount thrown into the market. Still, if we reckon at a rough guess that in the next fifty years, at least 2,000 millions sterling, or 50,000 millions francs, will be produced from these sources, we fully believe that future events will justify our supposition.

The population in either country is but insignificant in comparison with the great extent of the mining districts; and the idea often expressed in Europe, as to a probable early exhaustion of the gold diggings, is quite erroneous.

The most favourable spots, worked by unassisted manual labour, or with simple mechanical contrivances, are of course more or less turned over; but the dry grounds are of immense extent, and require but the application of water power, and the numerous auriferous quartz veins but the introduction of proper machinery, to yield up their hidden wealth to the enterprising speculator; so that five or ten times the present number of miners would find easy and profitable employment for years.

With five or ten times the number of miners, a proportionate increase in the yield of gold will be obtained; and instead of 30 to 40 millions sterling per annum, we may gain, for a period, 250 to 300 millions per annum, although the ultimate exhaustion of the supply would be hastened. What would be the state of men's prosperity, founded on our theory, if such was the case?

California and Australia are therefore entitled, on the part of the rest of the world, to more earnest consideration and attention than is generally bestowed upon them. It is the interest of the great industrial and commercial nations, more particularly, to watch the

progress of these countries, and to use every means at their command to promote a healthy development of their respective and almost inexhaustible resources. This can best be achieved by encouragement given to emigration, and by the freer employment of capital.

The benefits of such a judicious line of conduct would soon be apparent in the increased prosperity of these colonies, and, consequently, that of the mother countries. The mother countries, then—and be it merely for the purpose of getting more speedily into possession of these boundless riches—should populate and assist California and Australia to the best of their power.

The states of Europe principally are the great colonizing powers to whom all new countries must look for protection and aid, in return for which they give their riches; and no countries in the world are better able to reward these services than California and Australia, as experience so far has proved. We therefore claim for both these countries the assistance which they still require.

Our special object in this work is to claim this assistance for California.

We assert that California has been even less supported than Australia, and that it has been neglected in comparison with the assistance which the latter country has received.

The stream of emigration and commercial enterprise from Europe has, for the last four years, been more directed to the shores of Australia than to those of California, greatly to the prejudice of the latter country. Although the discovery of gold took place in Australia two years later than in California, the former country is, nevertheless, being constantly supplied with large numbers of emigrants of all classes; foreign capital is abundant and cheap, and all enterprises encouraged to their utmost extent.

California has, for the last three years, received scarcely any addition to her population, which is hardly one-half of that of Australia; capital is scarce, and rates high; so that enterprise is checked, and many advantageous undertakings are thus left unfinished.

Hence the respective differences in the value of both labour and property between the two countries. Rates of labour in California

are still at their old standard of five dollars a day, whilst wages in Australia are, as a general rule, scarcely one-third of that amount. Land, in California, can be obtained at rates ruling from fifty cents to one dollar per acre; whilst in Australia nothing can be got for less than £1 per acre. Although the number of miners in California is far below that of those in Australia, the former country, in spite of the absence of pecuniary facilities for erecting water-works, produces fully the same quantity of gold per year. Public banks in Australia are abundant, and money rules at an interest of 6 per cent. per year, whilst California cannot boast of a single public banking institution, and capital is sought after on the best securities, at the high interest of 2 to 3 per cent. per month. In future chapters we will speak more at large on these subjects.

The fact of California's being an American state is undoubtedly a disadvantage in the eyes of Europeans; and England especially, for very natural reasons, prefers giving all possible aid and support to its own colonies, whilst the United States, being themselves in course of development, are not in the position to render such important, peculiar services to our new state. We thus find that the resources of Australia, so far as they bear comparison with those of California, have been developed more rapidly and more advantageously.

We do not wish to charge England with any particular interestedness in this respect, and will freely admit that, independent of the above reason, there are many others which apparently justify this neglect; but still we consider it an indisputable fact that California has been very much underrated, not only by the emigrating population of England, but also by that of the other states of Europe.

We purpose in the present little work to give a faithful, unbiassed account of California and its enormous resources, with some few remarks on its past history. By so doing, we hope to be able to impart to our readers much useful information on many points.

California (or New Albion, as it used to be called), under the present circumstances, requires an advocate. Its vast riches, its boundless resources, and the general features of the whole country, are either not sufficiently known, or not rightly appreciated, on account of many prejudices against it in Europe.

Our review of California's history will throw a light on many matters apparently detrimental to its character. We will, then, attempt, unbiassed by personal feeling, to prove that there is not a country on the face of the globe more highly endowed with all the elements of prosperity, richer in precious metals, richer in agricultural and other prospects, than California.

Our purpose will benefit the emigrant who wishes to seek wealth and happiness elsewhere, California offering the widest and best field to him. The facts we adduce will also, we trust, enlighten the commercial man, and point out to the capitalist where he may look for the most profitable investment. The faithful picture which we are about to draw may tend to create the impression that a more energetic support to California in the above respects is necessary, and is a matter of the highest importance to the Old World.

In concluding these introductory remarks, we beg to apologize here, once for all, for any defects which may appear in these pages. The matter-of-fact manner of writing which we have to adopt does not admit of the introduction of much that is lively and entertaining, calculated to please a fastidious reader; but our little work, we hope, will find acknowledgment in the small circle of those who have already taken part, or who are about to interest themselves, in the affairs of California.

CALIFORNIA'S PRESENT POSITION AND POPULATION.

BEFORE speaking of the present position of California, it will be first necessary to preface a few remarks upon its antecedent history. This may be done in few words, for little can be said of its state previous to its occupation by the Americans in 1846, that is not already well known to the general reader. It was inhabited by a few of that ignorant and still more indolent race, the Mexican Spaniards. With a climate unequalled for its salubrity, and a soil unrivalled in richness, supplying abundantly their limited and simple wants, they lived on, contented and happy, nor dreamed of the vast riches within their grasp.

In 1848 the first discovery of gold was made. For a short time, but a short time only, people were incredulous; but all doubt was soon dispelled, and the news spread rapidly throughout the whole civilized world.

Immigrants of all classes now poured into the country; and the mania was shared even by the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire, fully 40,000 of whom are at this moment living in the state.

For a time, almost every immigrant resorted to the gold fields, in the full expectation of realizing a speedy fortune; and it was difficult to procure the smallest service in the towns and cities on any terms. But the still increasing tide of immigration gradually swelled the population of those towns where an active and rapidly increasing commerce sprang up, the more active and general from the fact that every conceivable necessity was the product of some other country. The mining implements, manufactured iron, bricks,

and undertakings of all kinds. Brick buildings, in the face of their exorbitant cost at Californian rates of labour, and of imported materials, repaid the cost of their construction in from six to twelve months. There seemed to be no limit to this sort of operations, and speculators seemed blinded to the possibility of any change taking place.

Foreign capitalists, or their agents, shared the almost general mania, and advanced money freely on one-third of the estimated value of landed property, feeling certain that even supposing some decline took place, still the property mortgaged would, at the worst, cover the capital advanced. The result, in many instances, has shown the error of this supposition.

This state of things was, on the whole, very flattering, and continued to the satisfaction of everybody till towards the end of 1853, at which period our market was, for the third time, swamped with excessive supplies of merchandise of all sorts. Importers became hard up, and goods were mortgaged freely. Real estate was then at its highest value, a fact evidenced by the sale of what was known by the name of the "Slip Property," a transaction with which many of our readers are undoubtedly acquainted. Speculators became less ardent.

It was just at this critical period that a rapid decrease in the immigration began; ere long it ceased entirely, and soon the departing steamers carried away *more* than the arriving ones brought. Legitimate inquiry after real estate ceased, and the expected increased consumption of goods did not take place.

With respect to this sudden and complete falling off in immigration, we ascribe it to the discovery of gold in Australia, which naturally absorbed the current of gold-seekers—to the then beginning war with Russia—and we may perhaps add, to the somewhat changed condition of the world's finances through these large supplies of gold from California, and the thereby improved state of things in Europe and the United States.

Very few persons had been capable of fully comprehending the causes of this rapid increase in the profits, enormous even in the very first times, realized by all speculators in real estate. It was sufficient for most of them that all operations of that nature always

had returned a high and ever-increasing profit, to cause them to suppose that these rates of profit would ever go on increasing; and even when a check did arrive, speculators imagined that, taking it for granted that no *increase* on their gains was to be expected, still, at all events, no *falling off* was likely to take place, and at the same time they looked for, and hoped a renewal of their former prosperity from a return to their shores of the tide of emigration, or from some one or other lucky event, which, in their opinion, could scarcely fail to turn up.

The unexpected decrease in immigration had taken away the bone and sinew of the great speculations on which merchants, capitalists, and a host of others, had built their castles in the air.

Now, although real estate had greatly declined in value, and rents had fallen proportionately, the mortgager still held on, in the hope of a reaction, and continued to pay enormous interests of 36 per cent. per annum; and so firm was the general belief in returning prosperity, that loans on five and even ten years were contracted at such rates. As we have said, but a small number of individuals were aware of the real state of things, and the danger of their position, and were prudent enough to sell at the right time, to avert impending ruin.

At last real estate fell to one-half its previous value. Still the tenacity of speculators continued throughout an entire year. It soon fell to one-third of its previous value, and then foreclosures and failures became numerous.

What, however, served to bring matters to a crisis was the failure, in February, 1855, of the well known bank of Page, Bacon, and Co., which had for a consequence that of many other banks and houses, whose assets in real estate had shrunk to quite insignificant proportions.

The confusion that followed cannot be described. Ruin and disaster stared one in the face on all sides; the markets were overstocked, and shippers in foreign countries had, consequently, become heavy losers; and, at the same time, many of the quartz-mining enterprises turned out little or no better than *swindles*. "What has become of California, the *El Dorado* of the world, with its inexhaustible treasures?" was the universal question.

The conclusions drawn from these occurrences by European capitalists and merchants—heavy losers in this general crash—are seemingly justifiable, although in a great measure erroneous. Most of them immediately withdrew their funds, and have mistrusted California ever since. And yet many of them had but shortly before made large fortunes in their commercial operations with the country.

But while we admit, to a certain extent, the justifiability of these conclusions on the part of those of our European friends who, at this time, unfortunately incurred perhaps heavy losses in their commercial relations with this country, without having participated in any of the advantages attendant thereon but a short time previous, we beg of them to well consider the case, and make a reasonable allowance for all those vicissitudes and misfortunes, the causes of which we ourselves have slightly touched upon.

They must confess, on their side, that a country like California—in itself an *enormous repository of capital*, furnishing to the world many hundred millions of gold, and endowed with agricultural and commercial advantages, *superior* to those of any land on the face of the globe—must have offered (and does still offer) to labour and capital a *rich field of enterprise;* and they should remember that previous failures, as regards the investment of both labour and capital, are to be ascribed, in most cases, to the injudicious manner in which this field was worked; that mad expectations, mad speculations, and unforeseen and unprecedented occurrences, defying even extraordinary sagacity and foresight, and beyond all human control, occupy by far the most prominent place in the commercial history of California up to the time of which we speak.

Let us now proceed to look at the picture which California presents at this present moment.

The production of gold, that source of our wealth, instead of decreasing, after yielding such prodigious supplies, is constantly on the increase, as statistics clearly show. Our regular working mining population, although reduced in number by the secession from their ranks of those who now follow agricultural and industrial pursuits,

are doing much better than before. They are only waiting for capital to improve their arrangements, and appliances to obtain still greater results.

Our quartz-mining companies, in spite of their losses, are now doing exceedingly well, and being conducted on an economical principle, are yielding extraordinary profits. We will speak hereafter of their really great value.

Mines of silver, quicksilver, copper, coal, &c., have been discovered, and are being worked with brilliant results.

And what has, for the rest, been done as regards agriculture and commerce? Instead of importing all articles of necessity and luxury, such as provisions, manufactures in general, furniture, lumber, &c., California has, in the last two years, produced the enormous surplus of some 100,000 tons of bread-stuffs, and exported the same to all parts of the world, with handsome profit. Cargo upon cargo of domestic lumber have been shipped, and are constantly being shipped, to Australia, China, and other parts. We raise wonderful vegetables of all kinds; we slaughter our own cattle; we brew our own beer, distil our own whiskey, and refine our own sugar; and we raise hemp, and manufacture it into ropes;—in short, we are now producing more than one-half of the home consumption of the necessaries and luxuries of life. The advantage of this change will be readily conceived by every reflecting mind.

Speculation has ceased entirely; real estate is low, and rises but gradually, according to the slight increase of population; and holders of landed property consider returns of regular and more moderate rents as profits, and *operate* but very little.

Trade has become much more regular; and although we still have periods in our market injurious to many branches of the import trade, still we are now secure against greatly unreasonable speculative importation, and our consumption only now regulates all such transactions.

This favourable change in the state of things in general began soon after the effects of the failures in 1855 had died away. Labour and industry have since prospered; and we may well congratulate ourselves upon the excellent result of this regeneration in all our affairs.

The principal thing now wanting to complete and perpetuate this prosperous state of things is an increase in the population; and we cannot but think that emigration to California might very well be encouraged without in any way diminishing the numbers of those who are constantly leaving the shores of Europe to seek a new home and the means of a more comfortable existence in either Australia, Canada, or the United States. With the immense natural and acquired advantages of California, the security of life and property by a due administration of justice, and the certainty of obtaining highly remunerative employment, are inducements certainly quite as powerful as any that can be urged in favour of emigration to any spot on the surface of the earth; and the intending emigrant would do well, before taking such an important step, to inform himself accurately of the advantages offered by the different countries to which the stream of emigration is directed, and decide only after mature consideration. By such a process of comparison we feel confident that California could not but gain; and were this course generally adopted, emigrants of all classes would soon flock to her shores.

With an increase of population, a proportionate increase of capital will always find profitable investment; and for the monied man and the merchant there is, undoubtedly, in California one of the finest fields in the world for honest speculation and commercial enterprise. And let not any one be discouraged from thus investing his labour or his capital by statements of more or less exaggerated facts, bearing date before this new order of things had sprung into existence.

Many of our European friends would, we are sure, long ere this, have availed themselves of the benefits and advantages arising from a close connection, personally or otherwise, with California; but, unacquainted from their own experience with the country, they are necessarily dependent upon others for their imperfect knowledge of it—some who, perhaps, from neglect or mismanagement of their affairs, had incurred losses more or less heavy, and who were, therefore, not likely to give a very favourable account either of the state of the country or of its resources.

Such persons, then, hearing much that was prejudicial, and little

that was encouraging, have formed a very erroneous idea of California in general, and are little disposed to hazard either person or capital within sight of its shores.

For such as these, our pages cannot but prove a source of valuable information, which, if rightly applied, may prove highly remunerative to the speculator, and, at the same time, of advantage to the country.

And now, taking a broader and somewhat speculative view of the probable historical destination of California, as connected with facts and principles of the world's history, we will venture a few remarks on emigration as we find it recorded in history, touching upon a strange feature in it—*its westward tendency for the last two hundred years*, beginning in the far East, and ending in the far West—in California, a country most richly endowed by nature, and well fitted to be the spot on which was to terminate this story of emigrations.

Ever since the days of our first parents restless man has been always on the move; emigration, in one form or another, and stimulated by the most different motives, has ever been the order of the day.

The first account we have of anything like a general migratory movement is that of the dispersion of the different *tongues* after the destruction of the tower of Babel, each taking a different direction; and in consequence of this event, the tide of population rolled gradually east, west, north, and south; the descendants of Shem peopling Asia, while Ham's posterity went south, and settled in Egypt, and Europe received its population from the children of Japhet.

The Israelites first emigrated *into* Egypt, and then some hundreds of years afterwards *out* of it.

The Egyptians and Phœnicians threw out colonies, as did later the Greeks and Romans.

Then came, in the first centuries of the Christian era, a great movement *westward*. The Mongols and Tartars swarmed from the east of Asia; the Ottomans marched westward upon Constantinople; the Goths, Visigoths, and Huns, came in hordes from their dark and cheerless northern homes, and inundated the more fertile and sunnier

shores of Southern and Western Europe, penetrating even to Spain and Portugal; the Vandals came westward into Germany, and France was conquered by the Franks; while the Saracens spread their Moslem faith along the whole north coast of Africa westward to the Pillars of Hercules, where they crossed, and established a kingdom in Spain; and, lastly, England was invaded and subjugated in turn by the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, the Danes, and the Normans.

The tide of emigration was then stayed awhile; but upon the discovery of America, away rushed thousands again westward to Mexico, Peru, Brazil, &c. England, France, and Holland then colonized the United States and Canada.

But nature seems to have reserved the fairest and most fertile spot on the earth's surface—California—as the most fitting place for the crowning scene of this long pilgrimage of Earth's sons. Further westward we come again upon the Old World, the ancient empires of China and Japan, now more antiquated and rickety than ever; while California is young, fresh, and vigorous, outstripping the famed "Land of Promise" in the abundance and excellent quality of its agricultural products, and greatly surpassing, in mineral wealth, any country under the sun; while its commercial advantages, seconded by the energy and enterprising spirit of its inhabitants, are such as warrant a firm belief in a long and uninterrupted career of prosperity.

California now holds that proud position to which her extraordinary natural advantages, her combined unparalleled mineral and agricultural resources, justly entitle her; and the present prosperous state of things is in striking contrast to that which it has been hitherto our duty, as impartial historians, to depict, and to the idea formed of the country by many of our European friends, founded upon statements having reference to a period anterior to the late favourable change in the state of affairs in general. We therefore proceed to assert, that *California's present position offers to both the emigrant and the capitalist better prospects of success than any country in the world;* and we will endeavour to prove the truth of this assertion in subsequent pages.

Before proceeding to a detailed account of mining and agricultural operations, it becomes us to say a few words on the moral and social standing of the population of California.

The reports of murders, gambling, and other vices, and of the lawlessness reigning amongst us, have undoubtedly prejudiced the minds of many really intelligent and educated persons, and created the impression of a general insecurity of life and property in this state, deterring many from investing capital among us.

By giving a short history of the growth of the population, &c., we may be enabled to dispel the doubts entertained respecting the existing state of order—doubts justified, to a certain extent, by previous experience.

The great impulse given to emigration generally by the sudden discovery of *all-corrupting gold*, brought to these shores, in the earliest days of the state, a mass of people of all classes, of all nations and languages, and of all temperaments, dispositions, and characters, among whom were undoubtedly, but inevitably, some of the most degraded of mankind—men whose antecedents had long before excluded them from the pale of civilized society.

Thousands of convicts, escaped from England's penitentiary, Australia, swarmed to this "Land of Promise." Here they not only resumed their evil courses with comparative impunity, but sowed the seeds of their own vicious habits among a class of immigrants hitherto innocent and inoffensive, but either too ignorant to see their danger, or too weak-minded and easily led away to withstand temptation, or escape contamination from the vicious habits and lawless conduct of those with whom it was their fortune—or rather misfortune—to become associated.

In the earlier stages of California's history, the doings of these disorderly characters were little regarded by either the honest working miner, the mechanic, or the merchant, and gave them no concern, except when their own interests suffered by it; they then took the law into their own hands. The entire undertaking of emigrating to California was adventurous and desperate in the eyes of every one, and scenes of gambling, robbery, and bloodshed, were looked upon with little surprise.

The honest inhabitants, anxious to make their *pile*, and return home rich, cared little about the social condition of the country; and when, at last, a government of some form *was* established, they committed the great error of neglecting to vote, and of thus taking part in its erection, so great was their indifference to political affairs.

The government fell, therefore, to a great extent, into the hands of those very classes—the gamblers, rowdies, busy-bodies, and loafers—the very persons who ought to have been excluded from any participation in it. These parties held the offices of trust and influence; and it may easily be imagined that they made the best of their opportunity.

This state of things could not last, and accordingly, in 1851, the people rose, for the first time, to avenge the numerous unpunished murders, robberies, &c., and remedy the many abuses in all parts of the administration. An association was formed, termed the "*Vigilance Committee.*"

But whilst, in consequence of these evils, the well-meaning and respectable portion of the population became alive to the importance of taking an active part in political matters, and periods occurred when better men were elected to office, still, in time, this feeling began to relax again, and things soon fell into their old state. The monies of the state and of the cities were recklessly squandered away; the public was, in addition, shamelessly plundered by the officials to an enormous extent, and the administration of justice conducted in a scandalous manner.

The gamblers and murderers' party managed to keep uppermost some few years. Political tricksters of some talent appeared in the country, and managed to organize a party that long reigned supreme, and may be styled the *Irish democracy* party, consisting of a great number of the foreigners out here, but mostly of Irishmen, who voted, whether citizens or not, under the guidance of a gang of meddling politicians, Jesuits, demagogues, and ballot-box stuffers, countenanced and assisted by the authorities brought into office by them, who found it to their advantage to make friends with that class of people, and who, by their artful tricks, gave it the appearance of a sort of national American party.

Matters were brought to a crisis in May, 1856, when the inhabitants of San Francisco rose in a mass to shake off the yoke —not of the fellows in office, because they had been elected, whether rightly or wrongly—but of the murderers, ballot-box stuffers, gamblers, &c.

The proceedings of the *Vigilance Committee* of 1856 are matters of history. Suffice it to say, that the *mob*, as it was called by the *law-and-murder* journals at home, and ignorant papers abroad, conducted itself in a manner reflecting the highest honour upon its members. They organized an army of about 6,000 men, infantry, cavalry, and heavy artillery, and all fully equipped, and entered upon their Augean labours with a firm determination not to flinch from the fulfilment of these self-imposed duties till order and justice had been re-established.

Some four or five double and treble murderers, men whose horrible character it would shock one to describe, were hung; others, the greatest and most dangerous villains that ever infested a community, many of them murderers, escaped convicts, &c., were banished, and forbidden to return under pain of death. The community became lightened of these curses, and breathed more freely.

In the face of the miserable efforts of the governor to quell the "insurrection;" in spite of the howlings and abuse of the so-called law-and-order press, the Vigilance Committee conquered on, and completed their labours without any more blood-shedding than that of the four or five thorough-paced villains strung up, as mentioned above. They then resigned their power and disbanded; and California is now enjoying the great benefits of this well-timed and judicious movement, courageously entered upon, and unflinchingly persevered in.

The reform has been pretty complete; and the officers elected since then in San Francisco are honest and upright men, under whose auspices that town will, we have no doubt, speedily attain a condition of moral, social, political, and financial prosperity, unequalled at any period of its history.

Throughout the entire country the people are awake, and see now the necessity of taking an active part in politics, to avoid the necessity

of being obliged again to resort to arms to right themselves. Most of them now intend making California their permanent home, and exert themselves to the utmost to maintain a state of order and peace, fit for the reception of their families, who now pour into the country in great numbers.

Our state at the present moment enjoys the most profound peace. Order and prosperity reign, justice is duly administered, and very few murders and acts of violence have occurred since the above mentioned successful reform movement. As the gamblers and disreputable characters became less numerous, a proportionate decrease in the number of crimes of the above description took place. No honest man, unwilling to mix with bad society, needs now have any fear of *getting into difficulties*, as the Americans say—at least, not more so than in any other country. The elections in the state, which formerly gave rise to disturbances of every kind, have for the last two years been conducted as quietly and in as orderly a manner as is compatible with the republican spirit.

California has set a noble example to the rest of the United States, many of which also require *Vigilance Committees*, even more than it did, as the issue of late elections have shown.

The *Vigilance Committee* movement is the best evidence of the very strong moral feeling that animates the people at large, and it is the best guarantee for our future moral, social, and political welfare; and supported, as the members of the committee are, by the largest portion of highly educated English, German, and French immigrants, we venture to predict that henceforth California will rival the rest of the world in social and political order, and in the upright and strict administration of justice, as also in the cultivation of the arts and sciences, and other refinements of polite society.

There have been newspapers in San Francisco, which, ultra-moral in their tendency, and animated by the best intentions, have yet pourtrayed the evils reigning here in the most glaring and fearful light, without explaining the true causes for the same, or allowing a due share of notice or praise to the great amount of good that evinced itself. These reports and descriptions have had an injurious effect abroad. But in admitting the correctness of many of the facts

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mentioned, we warn our friends against believing that these papers are doing us justice in the portraits they have drawn.

As we have already said, the fiery ordeal has been successfully passed, the people are awake to the advantages of their present position, and determined never again to fall into those errors that were the cause of their former misfortunes.

The state of California contains 188,981 English square miles, equal to 120,947,840 acres; and the population at the time of the last census amounted to about 300,000. Of this number there were some 60,000 Europeans, and about 40,000 Chinese; while the remainder are citizens of the United States, Mexicans, free coloured people, &c.

The energy and industry of the population of California are unequalled. They seem an almost natural consequence of its position; for being, at first especially, somewhat difficult of access to the European, and even to the citizen of the United States, it required something of an enterprising, ambitious spirit, to come out here in search of wealth; and, therefore, the timid and lazy shrank from an anticipated life of labour, danger, and excitement, and never emigrated. These remarks are even true of the African portion of the population; for they are decidedly superior, in every respect, to their brethren in the other states of the Union. (California, be it remembered, is no slave state.)

The Chinese, also, quiet and tame as they usually are, soon caught the hard-working, energetic, and enterprising spirit of the Americans.

Whenever a fire occurred—and that was formerly no rare thing—scarcely had the flames died away, ere, from among the still smouldering ruins, one heard the sound of the axe and the saw; and before the ground had fairly cooled, buildings were in course of erection, more substantial and splendid than their predecessors. Whole districts were thus sometimes burned and rebuilt in a few weeks, evincing an energy, industry, and perseverance, rarely to be met with elsewhere.

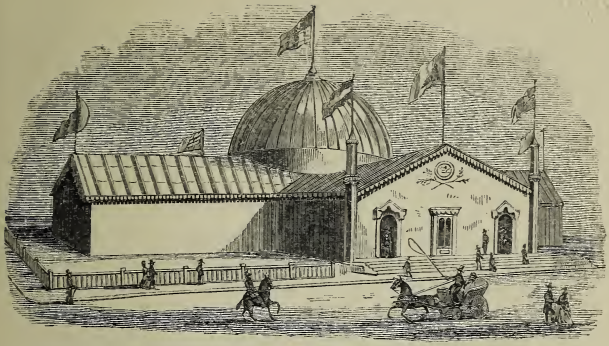
The improvement in the moral condition of all classes is very

great. All the gambling houses and other disgraceful places, with accounts of which former descriptions of the country teemed, have almost entirely disappeared; and any now discovered are prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law. Drinking saloons, &c., are under the control of the police, and must be closed at a police hour; and San Francisco is now, both by night and day, as free from disturbance and danger as any city under the sun.

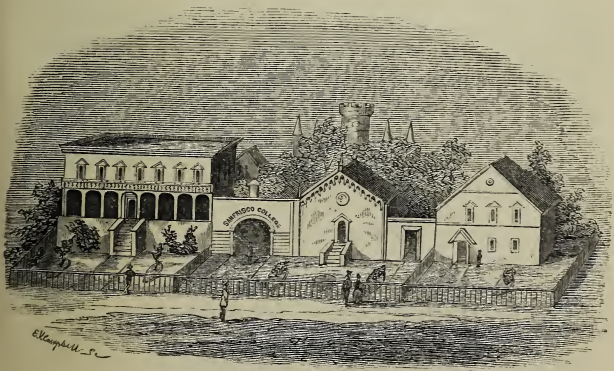
The religious welfare of the inhabitants is also duly and properly cared for. Not only San Francisco, but also every other city and town, has ample amount of church accommodation; and some of these buildings are most magnificent structures. These cities now present on a Sunday as quiet and orderly an aspect as any place in England or the United States.

In educational matters, California will be found *proportionately* more advanced than any other country. Free schools, many of them magnificent solid structures of brick, abound in all parts; and there is not a mining or farming settlement without its free school. These are supported conjointly by the state and the county or city where they exist; the proceeds of large districts being set aside by the state for that purpose. They are also provided with well-educated and otherwise competent teachers and superintendents. The private schools are also mostly very respectable, and there are, besides, several colleges. Some of the most worthy of note are—a Presbyterian college at Santa Clara, a Roman Catholic institution called the Santa Clara College, and the San Francisco College. This latter establishment is under the guidance of some gentlemen educated at Cambridge and Oxford, in England, and others from French and German universities; and its reputation has even reached the larger cities of the United States. With such advantages in education, and the example of their fathers before their eyes, the rising generation cannot fail to turn out clever, enterprising, and energetic men, and useful members of society.

Family life now presents itself in California under as agreeable an aspect as in England, or anywhere else. The suburbs of our cities abound in villas and other handsome and delightful residences, furnished with unusual taste and elegance. All the refinements of



EXHIBITION OF CALIFORNIAN INDUSTRY, SAN FRANCISCO.



SAN FRANCISCO COLLEGE.

social life—musical, theatrical, &c.—are cultivated to an extent, and with a judgment and good taste, of which our European friends have scarcely an idea.

There exists, in fact, in the present condition and character of the people and their institutions, every necessary element of moral and intellectual advancement.

We may here refer to the late vote of the people, with respect to the payment of the unauthorized portion of the state debt, as another evidence of the honesty of the population, their strict sense of justice, and their determination to act accordingly. The following statement of the facts of the case will enable the reader to judge for himself.

According to the constitution of California, the officers of the state had no right to contract any debts on its account exceeding the sum of 300,000 dollars. Some years ago, however, the rogues and scoundrels in office, with the connivance of the late governor, Bigler, created a debt on account of the state to the tune of some three millions of dollars, or tenfold the sum set down in the constitution as the maximum amount of debts to be incurred. It appears, also, that these guardians of the public property squandered this really large sum in a most reckless manner. About two years ago, the public at large became acquainted with this fact of the illegality of the major portion of the debts of the state; but although speculators in these securities, in Europe and elsewhere, were warned of the attendant risk, it seems that they still continued to buy and sell these illegal bonds, and otherwise trade therein.

As soon as, under the honest administration of Governor Johnson, the question of the repayment of these unauthorized debts was mooted, it became necessary, in accordance with the rules of American republics, to submit it to the people for their decision; and we are proud to say that an overwhelming majority voted for the acknowledgment of the said debt.

Now we do not wish to claim any great merit for California's doing what seems but right and just; still the decision recorded speaks much in its favour. The constitution of the state had been published to all the world, containing the above-mentioned clause,

limiting the contraction of state debts on the part of its officers, and therefore all speculators in these securities did it with their eyes open, and could scarcely have been pitied, even had the excessive debt been repudiated. One would have thought that such papers would hardly have been taken anywhere, especially after the numerous warnings received, at different times, from decisions of courts, &c. They were taken, however; and, luckily for the holders as well as for the character of the state, nothing was lost on them—California acknowledged them to the full.

It may be argued that the state was responsible for the doings of its officers; and this is undoubtedly true with regard to all their purely official acts; but when advantage is taken of their position as public officers to combine with these official acts a little, or rather a great deal, of private swindling, there is surely some limit to this responsibility; and the more so in this case, as the first acceptors of these bonds were fully aware of the iniquitous manner in which these debts were contracted. The responsibility was, therefore, purely a moral one.

In a community composed of such heterogeneous elements, and so impetuous and energetic, the indignation excited by these revelations was very great, and many were seriously inclined to refuse acknowledging the liabilities in question, in order to discourage and suppress all such acts of dishonesty for the future. Such a state of feeling might have proved fatal to the holders of the said bonds, had this taken place in many other countries reputing themselves vastly superior to California in their moral and social relations; but so correct was the feeling of justice on the part of the inhabitants of this state, and so marked the wish to protect those who would undeservedly suffer by a repudiation of the debt, that its acknowledgment was almost unanimously resolved upon.

In comparing this conduct with that of some of the other states of America, which had decidedly much less ground for repudiating their debts, we can but think most favourably of the honesty and the high moral feeling displayed on this occasion by the people of California.

Upon the strength of the foregoing remarks we now base another assertion:—

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That California's present social and political organization contains the germs of great national prosperity; that it is admirably adapted for maintaining public order, and for assuring to life and property a protection as ample as that enjoyed in any other country.

The world will soon begin to appreciate this, and will acknowledge the immense advantages possessed by California; while he who now takes an active part in promoting and perpetuating this state of prosperity will find California a much more grateful field for his exertions than any country in either the Old or the New World.

California, with a population eminently energetic, independent, intelligent, and industrious, would be well able—perhaps more so than any other country—to carve out its own fortunes without foreign aid; but at the same time its inhabitants are fully sensible of the great advantages to be derived from an introduction of additional capital and labour into the country; nor are they too proud to accept such aid, nor so selfish as to wish to keep all their riches for themselves.

GOLD MINING.

THE chief product of California is *gold*, a fact well known all over the world.

Our Custom House statistics show, since 1850, an annual shipment of about 50 millions of dollars, or 350 millions for the seven years. In 1848 and 1849, about 65 millions were shipped. But no one can form a correct estimate of what has been sent away undeclared, or taken off by the constant stream of private individuals leaving the country. We will reckon it, however, at about 15 millions per annum, which, since 1848, gives a sum of 120 millions. For the total exports, therefore, the enormous sum of 535 millions, or 107 millions of pounds sterling, may be put down; while the amount of gold specie current in California is about 25 millions of dollars; and the estimated quantity of gold dust constantly on hand something like 10 millions. The whole aggregate produce of the gold mines, since 1848, has been about 600 millions of dollars, or 120 millions of pounds sterling.

The questions often asked are—*Do California's gold mines still yield the same yearly amount, or have they not deteriorated in value?* and—*Are they likely to continue in their present state of yield for any length of time?*

The answer is fraught with interest to numbers; it is, however, plain, and runs as follows:—

California's gold mines will undoubtedly continue in their present state of yield for many, many years to come; nay, we may say that centuries will elapse ere the supply will be finally exhausted.

The mines in the immediate vicinity of rivers, or where water

was otherwise easily obtainable, do not now yield the same quick results as at first, when it was only necessary to turn up the surface of the earth to discover a remunerative amount of gold; but they still give employment to the great body of the miners, and will continue to do so for years.

We may assert that almost the *entire soil* of California is more or less rich in the precious metal, although many districts have not, as yet, given token of such richness as to induce the working of their mines.

There are, again, immense tracts of country known to *abound* in gold, but which lie as yet unbroken. Requiring water to work them successfully, the unaided miner has naturally preferred carrying his labour to a more remunerative market. To these districts the attention of capitalists will hereafter be especially called.

Quartz-mining will be a profitable investment of labour and capital for *hundreds of years*, as there are indisputably thousands of leads yet undiscovered.

In a word, we feel justified in repeating our assertion that the mines of California are capable of enriching the world for ages, being all but inexhaustible.

A remarkable fact connected with this gold-mining is, that although the number of miners in the last years has greatly decreased—even by 40 per cent. since 1850, the quondam diggers having turned farmers, merchants, tradesmen, mechanics, &c.—still, in the face of this, the produce of gold has ever been on the increase, as one of the permanent resources of the country. If, at the beginning of the discoveries, the world was startled by the news that common, hard-working miners made large fortunes, it must by no means be supposed that such is not the case now. Everybody that works in the mines honestly and perseveringly (and the work is easy enough, if compared with the duties of working men elsewhere), can do well, and, with prudent living, realize a snug sum of money; whilst others, who go to work with some experience and judgment, do still better, and make fortunes; and others again, if assisted by a little luck, will make *large* fortunes. There is, in fact, more gold taken out now than before, and that by a smaller number of people;

and the gains for each individual are of course larger. The following pages will prove the prospects still before us to be greater than ever; and every emigrant, therefore, who feels himself, and is really, capable of working with energy in such pursuit, will find all his anticipations, as long as they are not foolish, realized to their fullest extent.

There are annually upwards of 10,000 miners that may have worked for twelve or more months, leaving for their old homes with well-filled bags of gold.

All that is at present required for the still more successful working of these sources of wealth is—1. The necessary labour, *i. e.*, an increase in the number of mining hands, and of inhabitants generally; for by doubling the population you would double the amount of gold produced; and—2. Such capital as will be found willing to remain in the country for investment in ditches, quartz-mills, &c.

Gold is sought for in different ways, according to the nature of the ground. Some of these processes are described in the following pages.

PLACER MINING.

From all the *placer mines* the accounts are also, at this moment, highly favourable.

Mining operations are carried on by either *individuals*, by *companies*, or by *partnerships*.

The individual miner, having purchased or located a *claim*, works it entirely at his own risk, and for his own benefit.

A *company* consists of a number of men who work a number of *claims* in common, the proceeds being afterwards divided. Shares in these *companies* are regularly bought and sold, each holder of such share of course contributing his quota of the necessary labour.

A *partnership* concern differs from a *company*, in so far that the members hire men to work at stipulated wages (ranging from three to five dollars per diem), and take their chance of the result.

The proprietors of many of these concerns have erected buildings and works of different kinds, for the prosecution of their researches,

TOWING THE "ST. LAURENT."

and which have absorbed much valuable capital, indicating thereby a stability of purpose which gives assurance of the most substantial results.

Among the adjuncts of ordinary mining are *ditches* and *flumes* for the concentration of water from the ordinary creeks and streams, and its conveyance to the scene of the miner's operations.

The latter cannot, of course, get on without water; and as the precious liquid is often at some distance from the working grounds, dams have been thrown up in the small rivers and creeks, from which ditches and canals are constructed to convey the water almost into the miner's hands.

These dams and ditches have been almost exclusively the work of joint-stock companies, most of which have been highly successful; and where the contrary has been the case, the causes can almost invariably be traced to the inadequate means brought to bear upon enterprises requiring a great capital.

We seem to hear some one exclaim, What! in a country abounding in gold, and exporting it to other countries, a want of capital is complained of. How can the seeming paradox be explained—the riddle solved?

We will not, in answer, attempt to demonstrate the value of labour's going hand in hand with the value of capital, nor will we enter any further into any course of reasoning on the fact of *free and ready capital* being in great requisition in California, than just to mention one circumstance bearing directly on the subject, viz., our common, uneducated working miner has but one object—the immediate gain and *laying-by* of gold. All his surplus earnings are hoarded up to increase his *pile*, to enable him in the shortest possible time to retire from the scene of his labours with well-lined pockets—with what is, to him, a decent competence. He knows not, nor will he hear of investing his money, whatever inducement, in the way of high interest, might be held out to him. He will not give up the substance of what he has acquired with hard toil. His mind cannot grasp the advantages that would accrue from a judicious investment of his hoarded wealth.

Here and there an intelligent, successful miner looks about him

for an opportunity of increasing his riches, and generally takes to some less exciting occupation, such as farming, or some trade or other; and the capital thus laid out, combined with his personal exertions, brings him in excellent interest.

Some few speculative miners, of a practical turn, join others of a like character, and form companies for the construction of *ditches*, from which they realize enormous profits. Most of the mining ditches have been thus constructed with home capital.

Some foreign capital has, however, been employed, and returned very large profits, with the exception of one enterprise, which, in consequence of theoretical (mis)management, proved a complete failure. But whence this capital came, is but imperfectly known.

We here beg to introduce some remarks furnished to us by a gentleman intimately acquainted with the character of such enterprises:—

"The system of water-ditches, or canals, was introduced into the great mining placers of California, and has grown to its present magnitude and importance, by the necessities of that most important industrial interest of the country.

"In the early history of gold discoveries, the miner naturally followed the course of streams affording him the facilities, by their waters, of separating the gold from the gravel and clay with which it was intermingled. As this source of supply gradually diminished, auriferous earth discovered at a distance from water was, at great expense, conveyed to the nearest river or creek, and washed by the slow process of the 'cradle and rocker,' until, finally, the *certainty* of the permanence of the gold-yield, and the universal demand for water, as the great requisite of placer-mining in all its various branches, suggested the present mode of furnishing that indispensable element of success, by diverting the mountain streams from their natural channels, through ditches or canals, following the sinuosities of hills and mountains at a proper grade, crossing ravines and gulches by means of flumes, and by various lateral branches from the main trunks, supplying vast districts of country otherwise valueless, though rich in mineral wealth.

"Simultaneously with the adoption of these improved facilities for obtaining water, the 'cradle and rocker' were superseded, first, by the 'Long Tom,' then the 'sluice box,' and, more recently, by the 'hydraulic process,' superior to *all* for its economy and speed of operation.

"The small streams were at first only used for this artificial supply of water; but so lucrative were the first investments in these enterprises, and so rapid was the increase of demand, that the attention of men of capital and enterprise was soon turned to the larger rivers, which could only be advantageously used to their full capacity by diverting their waters, at points far up among the mountains, and thus gaining an altitude sufficient to overcome the topographical irregularities of the country, and convey the water to any desired locality.

"As a part of this vast system of works, attention is now turned to the formation of extensive reservoirs, in which to retain the surplus waters of the rainy season, as well as that discharged through the canals during the hours while miners are employed. The plan adopted consists in little more than embanking the narrow outlets of hill-enclosed valleys, thus forming the most perfect natural reservoirs, and capable of containing immense bodies of water, to be held in reserve for the demands of the long dry season. For this purpose the volcanic structure of the gold region has peculiarly adapted it; and such reservations of water will add materially to the revenues of canal enterprises.

"The great desideratum in mining is, a *certain* and *ample* supply of water in the summer months, as during the long days of the dry season, when the greatest amount of labour per diem could be performed, the water fails in all the small streams, and thousands of miners are compelled to suspend operations for several months. Hence exists the urgent necessity of introducing the waters of the rivers, with which to feed the smaller canals at that important season of the year, as well as to furnish the upper mines, which can only be supplied from this source.

"No fact is more clearly established than the impossibility of the successful prosecution of mining without an abundant supply of water. As the gold has been gradually 'worked out' on the banks of streams readily accessible, attention has been turned to points more remote, and frequently of exceeding richness, but *only* available by the artificial introduction of water from great distances and at heavy cost. A large portion of the mines at present most productive have been discovered and developed through the agency of this system of artificial supply; and, indeed, so general has now become the use of water from these canals, that were this aid to the yield of the great Californian gold product to cease, the mining interest of that country would soon dwindle into comparative insignificance, except, perhaps, quartz-mining operations, which may be partially supplied with water from their own subterranean workings.

"It has been already stated, that from time to time new modes of mining have been introduced, and each requiring an increased volume of water; but they are found so labour-saving in process as to give them a decided preference over the old methods, even at a high

tariff of water-rates. Especially is this the case with the hydraulic process, by which, in some departments of mining, a hose and pipe will perform the labour of twelve to fifteen men, and at one-fourth the cost.

"The value and importance of these enterprises to the great commercial interests of the world can scarcely be over-estimated, as it must be conceded by all who will investigate the subject, that by *this agency alone* can be perpetuated the gold-yield of California, which, for years, has so largely influenced the financial operations of both continents. With a system of canals and reservoirs judiciously perfected, the exports of gold may be made quadruple the past or present.

"The permanent productiveness of canals must necessarily depend on the permanence of the gold-yield. It was the opinion of many men, in the early history of Californian gold-mining, that a few years would exhaust the supply. Experience has taught the total fallacy of this prediction, for it is now well ascertained that all the gold heretofore collected on the banks of rivers and along the course of creeks, ravines, and gulches, was but the washings from neighbouring hills and mountains, and that the *original* deposits of treasure have but lately been reached. Of nothing future does the evidence now seem more conclusive than of the continued and increasing yield from the immense gold fields of California for centuries to come, if aided by an adequate supply of water.

"A new impulse has been given to the great mining interests of the state, during the past year, by the discovery of immense gold deposits, hitherto unknown, and in localities where its existence was least suspected. These 'deep diggings' are developing extraordinary wealth beneath hills and mountains, at great depths below the surface, and where the evidence seems indisputable that at some period in the world's history the golden sands were washed by flowing rivers. This new department of mining is creating a large demand upon the limited artificial supply from canals. The supply of water is now so meagre in some districts, that many miners prosecute their works at night, using water from canals whose entire supply, during the day, is consumed by other parties. Much water is also used a second, third, and even fourth time, by those otherwise unable to obtain a supply. For this a price is paid to proprietors, graduated by its previous use, and consequent impurity from sediment retained in it.

"All these facts combined prove the imperative and increasing, as well as permanent necessity of an extended system of canals and reservoirs for the development of mineral wealth, otherwise entirely unavailable.

"Perhaps no more satisfactory proof could be adduced, to establish the remunerative character of the water enterprises of California, than the fact, that of over 300 canals and ditches completed and in

progress in the state, nearly all have been constructed by its own citizens, and have commanded the requisite capital at home, and for those enterprises, in competition with investments offering guarantees of from 3 to 5 per cent. per month. It is well known that California, though rich beyond calculation in mineral resources, is yet poor in unemployed capital. While numerous quartz, quicksilver, coal, copper, and other mining enterprises have sought capital from abroad to carry out schemes of very doubtful merit, and often resulting in total loss, no aid has been sought from without the state in accomplishment of these *most* important and indispensable of *all* California's enterprises, until the imperative demands of the mining interest have induced the construction of works on a more gigantic scale than any before undertaken, but from which practical results of the past justify the anticipation of correspondingly large and permanent revenues. The cost, however, of constructing works on so extended a scale, and the great obstacles which have had necessarily to be overcome in its execution, to divert a river from its channel, and conduct it through almost inaccessible rocky cliffs and mountain gorges, necessarily involves the outlay of much capital."

In order that the reader may form some idea of the extent of the works already constructed, of the sums expended on them, the interest they pay, &c., as well as of the enterprising spirit of their undertakers—mostly practical miners—we will offer some interesting remarks and statistics upon the ditches to be found in different parts of the country.

In Placer county are two companies valued at 130,000 dollars each, two at 25,000 dollars each, one at 20,000 dollars, another at 14,000 dollars, and eighteen smaller ones valued all together at about 55,000 dollars.

As these valuations are made by the assessors for taxes, and it not being customary to state the *highest* value for such purposes, it may reasonably be supposed that the value of these works was very much higher than the amount stated.

In Amador county there are thirty ditches, with an aggregate length of 300 miles, assessed at 450,000 dollars. This estimate of the length includes not the main ditches only, but also all the innumerable branches, sub-branches, and flumes, from six inches to one foot wide, and which naturally much exceed the main ditch in length.

El-dorado county has twenty ditches, of an aggregate length of 800 miles, and valued at two million dollars.

Nevada county has forty-four ditches, length 682 miles, assessed at 400,000 dollars.

Sacramento county, with four ditches of 59 miles long; value, 308,000 dollars. This gives over 5,000 dollars as cost per mile; but had it required double that amount, the work would have been completed, so obvious was its necessity for the success of their mining operations.

Sierra county has seventy-eight small ditches, length unknown, but assessed at 390,000 dollars.

Siskiyon county, one ditch, 80 miles, cost 200,000 dollars.

Yuba county has eighteen, valued at 180,000 dollars.

Mariposa county, unknown what number.

Of all the ditches enumerated there is not one that pays, after deducting all expenses of repair, management, &c., a dividend of less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per month; the majority pay much more; and we know of several that yield from 5 to 8 per cent. per month clear profit, although many of these ditches were constructed at a time when labour, material, lumber, &c., were five times as dear as they are now.

The following are reported as accurate statements of the profits of some of the Californian water companies:—

Columbian Water Company	4	per cent. per month.
Canal on Rich Gulch	12	„
Ditch on the head of Rich Gulch	6	„
Two flumes in Butte county	5	„
Prairie City Canal Company	3	„
Coon Hollow Canal	10	„
Two ditches at Coloma	5	„
Rock Creek Ditch (near Georgetown)	5	„
Natoma Waterworks (Mormon Island)	12	„
Gold Hill Ditch	40	„
Auburn and Bear River	20	per cent. per annum.

All these are works made by capital borrowed at extravagant rates of interest.

A small ditch at Jackson, which cost 1,700 dollars, pays 100 dollars a-day.

The Sutter County Canal Company pays largely; exact revenue not known.

The South Fork of the American Canal cost between 600,000 and 700,000 dollars, and yields a profit of 2,500 dollars per week. Constructed with borrowed capital, at 5 per cent. per month.

The Water companies in Nevada county pay from 6 to 30 per cent. per month.

Those counties possessing as yet no ditches, require some; and those already possessing some, require more; and this would afford perhaps fifty times the employment afforded by those now in operation.

Experience has fully demonstrated that there are very large districts in California containing deposits of gold of very great richness, and requiring only the aid of capital to be brought to light.

We have heard a well-informed man estimate the probable amount of gold lying in those dry districts, at not less than 5,000 millions of dollars; and if we add the produce of other larger, but probably less auriferous districts, the amount would, in all probability, be nearly doubled. In a few years, when the standard of wages shall have been somewhat reduced, and mechanical and other contrivances more easily obtainable, even these latter gold regions will then be worked.

If we consider the sums of money that have been expended on silver mines in South America and elsewhere, where shafts had to be sunk, pump-work and other machinery erected—and that merely to test the mine's capability of paying for the expense of working—and when we find that most of such companies, even with their often unsuccessful experiments, costly machinery, &c., yielded large profits, what may we not expect from our gold mines, known to be immensely rich, and requiring such comparatively simple and cheap appliances for the extraction of the virgin metal? How profitable must such an investment be!

Here the almost boundless unmistakably auriferous plains lie extended at one's feet, requiring for their working but water for washing the dirt; and the appliances for the concentration and

distribution of that water are simple and practical, and the outlay is almost reducible to a certain calculation.

The *modus operandi* of the ditch companies, for realizing the value of their water, is as follows:—

The main ditch is constructed of a certain size, and conducts the water to the scene of operations, where it generally terminates in a reservoir. From this reservoir branches are constructed, running to the gulches, tunnels, or placers, with sub-branches to the different claims. The latter are from six to nine or twelve inches wide, and have a certain depth of water, and a certain inclination. From the width and depth of the thread of water, *combined with its rapidity*, the amount is reckoned in *inches*. The price of the inch ranges from a half to one dollar per day, according to the distance and richness of the claim. A company of four miners, realizing perhaps from 30 to 100 dollars per day, use, we will say, from twelve to twenty inches of water, at a cost of about 10 dollars per day.

A ditch capable of supplying 1,000 inches per diem would therefore realize from 800 to 1,000 dollars per day, which, on a capital of outlay of about 360,000 dollars, would pay a dividend of from 5 to 7 per cent. per month, after deducting all expenses for taxes, repairs, management, &c. This estimate is merely given to show the theory of the matter.

The permanent or incidental expenses of these canals, once completed and in operation, consume a smaller per-centage of their revenue than any works of equal magnitude; but common prudence will dictate the adoption of a judicious and economical management. Experience is not wanting to verify the adage, that a staff of unfaithful agents can readily consume the material for larger dividends.

Any movement, past or prospective, on the part of consumers, to effect a reduction of the tariff of water-rates, is entitled to no consideration. The commercial rules of supply and demand must necessarily ever regulate price, and will supersede all action of parties interested. The capacity of the mountain streams of California will be insufficient to supply the increasing demand, except during the rainy season; and the power of regulating prices must necessarily

rest with water proprietors, whose rights are as carefully guarded by legislative enactments as any property or rights within the state.

It would be difficult to state with precision what has been the rate of profits realized, because in many instances, instead of making a dividend, these profits have been applied to the enlargement and other improvements of the works, many of which were commenced with comparatively little capital, and improved, &c., as the funds allowed.

Had these companies been organized in the ordinary way, with a full capital paid up, the high returns would have caused the shares to reach an almost fabulous price. But they are generally the property of some hard-working practical miners, and the shares are quoted neither on 'change nor elsewhere.

There are one or two ditches now in operation which have been built by English capital on private account; but except that they are paying magnificently, very little is publicly known either of their affairs or of the direct source of their capital.

The course to be pursued by capitalists embarking in such undertakings would be either to construct a new ditch, to buy one unfinished and complete it, or to buy one in operation and work it and improve it.

New ditches can be now constructed much more cheaply than ever before, the chief material, lumber, being less expensive than it is even in England. The price of lumber in general, assorted deals, scantling, &c., is about one penny per square foot of one inch in thickness. This measurement serves as a standard, two square feet of two-inch plank costing four times as much. At Puget Sound it costs about 17 dollars per thousand feet.

After a thorough and practical investigation of the country, of the districts most in want of water, of those where water is most easily attainable, and of those where a combination of advantages seem to render the establishment of a water company desirable—after such an investigation, proper measurements, impartial estimate of costs, &c., &c., there is every chance, if such a company be not downright mismanaged, of its operating with most brilliant results.

The purchase of a ditch perhaps not completed for want of

capital, might be made on advantageous terms; or a completed ditch might be obtained cheap.

Their assessed value, also, is different from what it would be in any other country, for it is still based upon the presumption that money is still worth but 3 per cent. per month; so that these ditches would be worth, to the European capitalist, three or four times their actual cost, and that without any prospective apprehension of a falling-off in their returns, every day adding to their value.

These facts and data justify the assertion, that water or canal enterprises, so indispensable to the elements of wealth possessed by California, are, by intrinsic merit and pecuniary value, entitled to the most favourable consideration of capitalists, and are of the first importance to the commercial world. In extent and certainty of revenue, from their origin to the present time, they have been unequalled by any investments in the state; and finally, from the controlling power they necessarily exercise over the mining interest, coupled with the undoubted prominence of those interests, they must be more reliable for longer, regular, and permanent dividends than any class of legitimate enterprises, either in Europe or America.

The great demand existing for water-works in California will soon be acknowledged as a most legitimate one; and experience demonstrates the enormous profits to be realized by them. It is estimated that one million dollars invested in such works would have the effect of increasing the yearly production of gold by at least five millions. All projects of this nature, which may in course of time be brought to the notice of capitalists, are fully worth their earnest consideration as most valuable investments.

But capitalists should bear in mind that it is upon the *management* of such companies that prosperity depends; and they should take shares in no concern got up for the *benefit of the directors and their hangers-on*, as has often been the case, especially in Californian quartz-mining enterprises, of which we shall speak presently.

A water company in California should be placed in the hands of a few intelligent, energetic, and hard-working men; and the greatest economy should be enforced.

SUSPENSION FLUME ACROSS BRANDY GULCH.

By these means shareholders would find returns for their money exceeding their most sanguine expectations.

Besides the placer-mining districts in the interior, there are at different spots along the coast of California enormous deposits of black gold-sand, more or less rich, amounting in quantity to countless millions of tons, inexhaustible in centuries. In some parts of the coast—the Gold Bluffs, for instance—gold-seekers are making an excellent livelihood.

The *modus operandi* of obtaining the gold is, as far as the washing is concerned, pretty much the same as that practised in placer-mining in the interior; but the gold being very fine, more quicksilver is employed in the subsequent process of amalgamation.

The introduction of some sort of machinery suitable for washing these sands would be a great benefit; but here, again, the want of capital is felt. By any process by which labour is saved, these gold-sands would yield immense profits; and we understand that arrangements have been made by some commercial houses for shipping this sand to England.

We have in our possession at this moment several samples of this gold-sand; one we analyzed yielded at the rate of 17⅔ ounces of gold to the ton of 2,000 pounds.

Had we but a labouring power of 25,000 hands, with the necessary machinery, employed in the sand-fields, they alone would produce gold at the rate of 25 millions per year.

Gold is also found in some arsenic ores (which are very rich), in copper, silver, and numerous other substances, of which, in speaking of California, we can only take a passing notice, as neither labour nor capital are expended upon them to increase their produce and enhance their value. We therefore reluctantly leave these sources of wealth to be explored and brought to light in a more highly developed state of the country, although all sorts of such undertakings would even at present yield surprising results.

QUARTZ-MINING.

In various parts of the state there are veins of white and yellow quartz lying beneath the surface of the earth. Most of these veins are auriferous, and contain from 1 oz. to 100 oz. of gold per ton of 2,000 lb. The gold is sprinkled through the quartz in little particles, and sometimes runs in little broken or unbroken veins. It is sometimes found in lumps of different sizes, weighing from some pennyweights up to a pound.

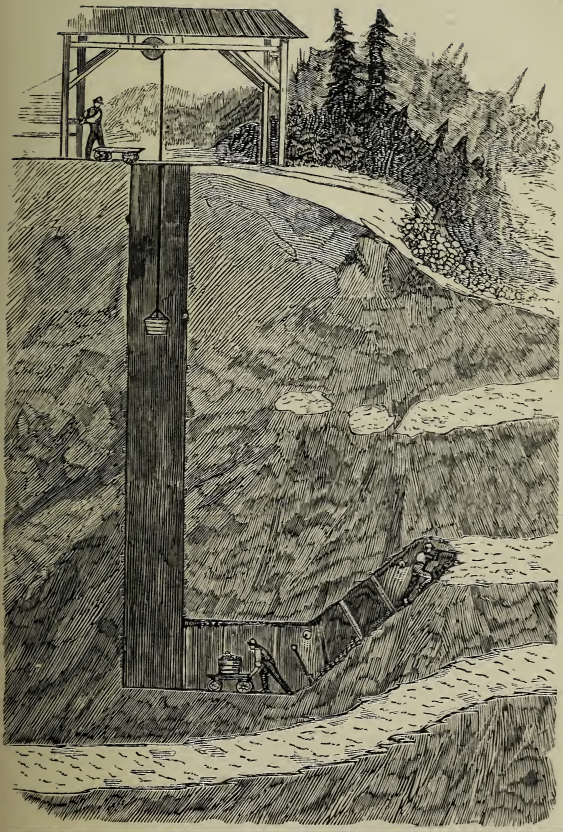
Masses of this quartz are broken out, and taken to the quartz mill to be crushed. This process requires the application of some power, either steam, water, or horse power, which acts either upon rollers, or upon what is called a set of stampers, very much in the manner of old-fashioned oil mills.

The quartz masses are thus reduced to a dust, and the pieces of gold thereby become detached; this dust is afterwards washed by some contrivance, which precipitates the heavy gold, whilst the lighter sand flows away. Quicksilver is then added to the atoms of gold in order to amalgamate them; this done, the quicksilver is evaporated, and the gold remains behind, a solid body.

Such is the general course pursued in quartz-mining operations; and the above description of *one* will serve our purpose just as well as if we described fifty: the great principles are the same in all, although the methods pursued in extracting the gold may be somewhat different.

The cost of breaking, pounding, and amalgamating the quartz is generally reckoned at about twelve dollars per ton, and all that is obtained above that is clear profit. The minimum of yield may be estimated at fifteen dollars per ton; while some quartz mines have yielded as high as two thousand dollars per ton. It is one method of gold-seeking that is invariably profitable, and therefore forms one of the permanent sources of our supplies of gold. But it will prove much more remunerative when the most efficient and economical means of extracting the gold from the rock shall have become thoroughly known and practically applied.

How is it, then, that many of the different companies formed in



BREAKING GOLD QUARTZ FROM THE VEIN.

England, with large capital, and placed here under the control of "most experienced and efficient" agents, have proved partial or entire failures?

This question is easy of solution: it is just because *these companies were formed in England, instead of in this country*, that they have practically failed.

In the first place, many of these veins were sold to them by designing agents in England *by the map*, at an enormously high price; and, ridiculous as it may appear, many of the managers on coming out here had to search for weeks and months before they found their *rich vein;* and in many cases they found nothing answering to the description of their promised treasure. Even when they did find their vein, and it was a rich one, water or something else was nearly sure to be wanting, which rendered the prosecution of their work impossible.

Again, in these undertakings, as in most other business affairs, success depended almost solely on *good management*—on the *integrity*, *energy*, *ability*, and *practical knowledge* of those entrusted with the direction of affairs. And we appeal to business men, and ask if they consider country squires, and retired naval officers, and other professionals, the right sort of people to be sent out here on such an errand? In most cases, totally ignorant with respect to the country, the peculiarities of life, the rate of wages, &c., often failing in the necessary energy and ability, and almost without exception destitute of that practical knowledge requisite for such an undertaking—were these the men likely to succeed in such a place as California? Lucky it was for some of them—but very few, however—that these tracts of auriferous soil, bought blindly map-wise, did really turn out very rich, and in spite of gross mismanagement kept them awhile from bankruptcy. We say *awhile*, for but three, we believe, of these numerous companies, with their hundreds of thousands of capital sunk, succeeded ultimately in establishing themselves permanently. Most of the claims fell into the hands of other parties, at this present moment realizing enormous profits from the very same veins. The fact is, that the expectations entertained had been most extravagant, and led to such a lavish expenditure in the way of salaries, travelling expenses, and costly machinery requiring a mint of money to trans-

port it to the scene of action (a spot, by the bye, reached by scarcely a tenth part of such machines), as, combined with other and unforeseen expenses, completely exhausted the capital, and left the managers there without a farthing to commence operations. Many of these would-be managers returned to England bitterly disappointed, and laying all the blame on California and its institutions.

Such was the disastrous fate of most of the companies formed in Europe for working the quartz veins. Their failure arose as above stated—from extravagant anticipations and injudicious management. They ran away with the idea that mountains of gold were to be obtained, and that every holder of a five-pound share would speedily become a millionaire. They seem to have considered that all that was necessary to be done to become thus suddenly rich was to create stock, nominate a board of directors, appoint a regular staff of managers, engineers, mining captains, &c., at enormous salaries, equal in the aggregate to over one-quarter of the subscribed capital, and to send them out with costly machinery, constructed on the soundest theoretical principles, and then sit down and receive in their laps the shower of gold that was to be the immediate result of these sage proceedings.

Instead, however, of these rosy dreams receiving their realization, the shareholders received accounts stating that the transport of the machinery had absorbed their remaining capital; that the machinery itself (in most cases) was impracticable; that there was perhaps a want of water; that the men required to work demanded wages—a circumstance they seem, one and all, to have left entirely out of their calculation—and wages running from 150 to 200 dollars a month at that time, besides board at equally high rates. They appear not to have made any allowance for the possible delays in getting their works into operation, but to have relied upon their immediate productiveness to meet all immediate expenses.

Their expensive machinery mostly turned out impracticable, as above stated, and was sold in San Francisco for old iron; while one company lost a really good quartz-crushing machine by the sinking of a vessel in the Sacramento river.

The lamentable fate of these promising enterprises, combined with

the failures in commercial speculation, served to bring discredit on California, and caused the withdrawal of almost all English, and a great deal of other European, capital from our market.

In the quartz veins, however, undoubtedly lies an almost inexhaustible store of wealth : *practical skill* and economical *management* are alone necessary to develop their resources ; and it is with all confidence that we would direct the attention of capitalists to them as one of the best fields for investment.

It would be as well for us, perhaps, to warn such against too easily crediting the unfavourable reports of returned unskilful agents of these quartz-mining companies. They naturally endeavour to make everything wear the appearance of impracticability, while the fact is, that the failures have originated either in their own deficiency in energy, experience, or practical skill, or in the restrictions placed upon them by the directors at home, or in the extravagant views entertained by the shareholders and promoters of the scheme. We speak thus severely, because we know that gross misrepresentations have been made ; and we are confident that there is no practical Englishman in California who would not readily endorse and confirm these our remarks.

We now beg to add a communication on quartz-mining, published some time ago in the San Francisco *Prices Current and Shipping List*, written by George Gordon, Esq., an English practical mechanic and ironworker of long experience:—

"Whatever may be the general history of quartz-mining in this country, to the English, and indeed to nearly all the foreign companies, it has been nothing but a tale of disaster and ruin. We think it would be no exaggeration to say that fully two millions of dollars have been squandered in the prosecution of such enterprises in California by the former alone; and yet not one of them has paid as it was expected to do, and but one, to our knowledge, has paid at all. One after another have the companies fallen through, after purchasing and sending to this country the most expensive machinery—in many cases erecting their mills, running adits, opening the veins fully, &c., &c.; and their buildings and works alone remain now, as evidences of vast sums of money miserably squandered and misapplied, and monuments of the speculative fever in quartz which raged for so long a time throughout Great Britain. The Nouveau-Monde Company spent nearly £130,000 in opening and working their vein, and it has been abandoned; the Quartz Rock Company spent £60,000, and are likely to share the same fate; the West Mariposa spent £50,000, and we believe their machinery never even reached the ground on which it was to be located, and has lately been sent away to Australia; the Anglo-Californian wasted some £50,000, and received nothing in return—and by

the last *Mining Journal* received we perceive there is a strong probability that the works will be ordered to be sold for whatever they may bring, and the whole affair be abandoned. So of all the rest; nothing but loss upon loss has followed the attempts of foreign companies to work quartz in California; and at the present time we suppose it would be as impossible to organize in England another company for the prosecution of any similar project, as to carry out Gulliver's celebrated scheme of extracting sunbeams from cucumbers.

"And yet we can assure our friends in England that quartz-mining in California is a profitable business—a *most* profitable one—where it is properly conducted; and we shall not be accused of exaggeration by those here who are acquainted with the business, when we state that eight out of every ten of the mills now in operation are paying handsomely on the capital invested—some of them, indeed, magnificently. We will endeavour in a few words to point out the errors into which the English companies have generally fallen, and cite a few instances which have come under our own observation to substantiate our opinions.

"The English quartz companies, in the first place, were mostly organized at a bad time for the shareholders. They commenced operations when the country was in a very unsettled state—when prices for all descriptions of labour were at their highest point; when freights were enormous (compared to what they are now); and when accidental and incidental expenses, such as could not be calculated upon, were most serious items. All this could have been borne, however, and the losses thus made recovered, had the other arrangements been properly made. But nothing was done aright. The machinery, which was purchased at great expense and sent out here at a corresponding cost, was, in almost every case, if not entirely useless, at least unsuited to the business, and far inferior in efficiency to simpler styles, which would have cost comparatively little. The miners engaged to prosecute the work might be very good hands in a coal pit or a copper shaft, but they knew nothing of gold-mining. The superintendents were not practical men, but theorists, more anxious to demonstrate the value of their own plans than studiously to serve the company; and in many instances were unfaithful servants, looking more to the interests of themselves and their immediate friends than those of the shareholders at large. The system of nepotism, which prevails so extensively in Great Britain, was indulged largely in the appointment of managers, &c., in this country, and we fear that in too many instances the speculation in shares in London regulated the reports sent from this country. Again, where the managers were honest and capable men, they were so hampered by orders from the board of directors at home, that they were unable to act to any advantage, and in many instances threw up their commissions in disgust. Such were some of the leading difficulties in the way of a successful prosecution of quartz-mining by foreign companies; and we opine that against such it would be impossible for any association to struggle.

"Quartz-mining is a business which requires, in common with all others, skill and economy in working; but in this country more than any other it requires facility of adaptation on the part of the superintendent. If he finds that crushing his ore enables him to extract the gold better than grinding, he should be in a position to discard his machinery, and procure other and more suitable styles. If amalgamation will not take up the precious metal, he must have recourse to shaking tables, blankets, and whatever other methods he finds will work best. In a word, he must have power to act according to his own discretion, and not be hampered by arbitrary orders from parties thousands of miles away. This is something the managers here never had, and consequently they found themselves losing money daily, with fine machinery and costly mills, while humbler parties at their very sides were making fortunes with a few stamps, and a careful attention to the saving of their gold by every possible method. The quartz veins, worked by practical men who superintend their

own business, are all making money in this country, and will continue to do so for years to come—indeed, until (what will one day be the case) the yield of gold from the ledges in this state will surpass that from the placer diggings.

"A year or more ago, a Mr. J. Arthur Phillips, a practical assayer of great experience, it is claimed, was sent out to this country to examine and report on several of the lodes which were being worked, and his decision settled the fate of many of the leading companies, prominent among which was the Nouveau Monde. He reported adversely in almost every instance; and a stranger on reading his report would imagine that quartz-mining could never be prosecuted profitably in California—certainly not at present. And yet what a commentary on his decision is the success which is attending well-directed efforts throughout the whole state! The Nouveau Monde Company cancelled their lease with the Merced Mining Company, and sacrificed nearly 750,000 dollars, and their vein is undoubtedly one of the richest in the state! After the Mount Ophir works had been handed over, and the Josephine and Pine Tree veins (as we learn by the *Mariposa Democrat*), two of the shareholders of the Merced Company began operations on the Josephine, where Mr. J. H. Clement, the first superintendent, had driven an adit to intersect the vein. After taking out about 100 tons of ore, they sent it to Mr. Mackay's mill at the Oso mine (distant about one and a half miles), to be reduced and amalgamated. These 100 tons produced an average of 50 dollars per ton of 2,000 pounds. The success of this trial inspired the parties with confidence, and since then they have had about 300 tons reduced at the same mill, yielding about the same amount to the ton; and the ore improves in richness the deeper they sink. Lest we might be thought to be in error in regard to this statement, we will say that the whole has been corroborated to us by Mr. Mackay, who saw the ores reduced and amalgamated at his mill, and who states that even with his mill the veins in question must yield a net profit of 50,000 to 60,000 dollars per annum.

"This solitary instance (and many similar ones might be adduced) proves that there is some great mismanagement, either at home, in selecting officers to conduct their operations, or in the carelessness and incompetency of these officers after they arrive here. The fact is patent to all that the auriferous veins produce abundance of gold where economy and practical knowledge are combined, and the old-established mode of stamps, blankets, and Chile mills is adopted for reduction, instead of those fanciful and expensive inventions which the managers of wealthy companies delight in experimenting upon, at the sacrifice of the time and money of their employers.

"Messrs. Wass, Uznay, and Co., assayers, in this city, have recently erected an establishment for the purpose of extracting the gold from the sulphurets and tailings concentrated at the mills, and which are transported to this city for that object. We have been informed by these gentlemen that they have extracted from 10 to 75 cents per pound, or from 200 to 1,500 dollars per ton, from different parcels of sulphurets sent to their establishment. So that the quartz-miner has now an opportunity of saving nearly all the gold in his ore, if he is only careful in the mechanical appliances at his reduction works.

"We had intended to pursue this subject somewhat further, but the limited space in our columns will not permit it at present. We think we have said enough, however, to set reasonable men abroad thinking over the matter; and we assure them that numberless instances could be adduced on every point to prove the correctness of our statements. It may be too late for the old English companies to save themselves, but we hope yet to see quartz-mining properly developed by foreign capital in this country; and if the direction is given to practical, not merely scientific, men—to persons of integrity, not bound to clique or party at home—and a proper latitude is allowed them, the investment cannot fail to be among the most profitable known either at home or abroad."

We will also add an extract from the *Grass Valley Intelligencer*, giving an account of the mills in work in Grass Valley:—

"The reputation that this place has obtained all over the States and in Europe is not undeserved, nor is it equal to its deserts. The developments of the past two years are such, that, when known, the greatest sceptic in quartz-mining must yield, and acknowledge that he prejudged. A few weeks since we stated that upwards of 100,000 dollars had been invested during the year in the erection of new mills and pumps, and that the works were being constructed for cash earned from the mines, without one dollar having been contributed from outside the business.

"The following mills are now in active operation:—The Allison Ranch has been at work some six weeks, during which time they have reduced only some *five hundred tons* of ore, which has yielded about 500 pounds (not ounces) of gold—value about 100,000 dollars—a company of six working men.

"Messrs. Rush and Layton have been reducing ore from different mines, which has yielded variously, 30 to 100 dollars per ton. The Mount Hope, just started, has nearly 1,000 tons of ore that will yield from 60 to 90 dollars a ton. The French Mill enlarged, reducing ore which yields from 15 to 100 dollars per ton.

"The Gold Hill Mill, having undergone a thorough repair, is now at work upon ore from its own mines, and upon custom work, which is yielding from 15 to 100 dollars per ton.

"At Lee's Mill they are reducing ore which is paying 100 dollars per ton. Last week, out of the mills at work, five of them were reducing ore, none of which yielded less than 60 dollars per ton, while some paid far above it; the Allison, for example, yielded 300 dollars per ton.

"This *grand prize* of the Allison boys, which two years ago might have been purchased for 600 dollars, could not now be obtained for much, if any, less than half a million. The ledge is very thick, in parts as much as eight feet, *none of it poor*.

"The Helvetia and Lafayette, at work night and day upon their own ore, which pays well.

"The Grass Valley Quartz-Mining Company, at work upon their own ore, which is very rich.

"The Empire Mill, at work on their own ore, very rich.

"Larimers', under repair, with a large quantity of good ore on hand.

"The Orleans Mill, upon their own ore and custom work.

"The Consolidated Drainage Company have their engine shaft over 114 feet, and the ledge has been struck at a distance of 82 feet from the shaft. The ore promises well. Their contract is to drain the ground, for which they will receive from three companies a certain share of the gold, and from others so much per ton, for drainage. The capital invested was less than 10,000 dollars, and it promises to be one of the best operations in the valley.

"To sum up, all the mills in operation are doing well, while many of the companies who own leads without mills are making money fast.

"Tunnels for drainage are being run into several hills at a great expense, but with confidence, as most of the ground has been tested, and is known to be good.

"By the spring there will be added some three or four new mills, to be followed by others.

"There is no denying the fact, that if Grass Valley be not the richest quartz region, it is certainly the best developed in California. No better evidence of present prosperity and a confidence in the future need be offered than the great improvement which is presented in the stores and dwellings, the neat appearance of the latter eliciting the surprise and admiration of every stranger.

"It may interest some to know the working expense of a mine. In Grass Valley there are few if any mines from which it costs 20 dollars per ton to raise, haul, and reduce the ore, when done at a custom mill; while many mines upon which a mill is erected can be worked at an expense of 10 dollars a ton."

From the following list of the principal quartz mills and their operations, extracted from the *Daily Evening Bulletin*, the reader will be able to form his own opinion of their value :—

"Columbia.—The Experimental Mill, capital 3,200 dollars. Thus far unproductive. New veins just discovered, and prospects good.

"Brown's Flat (arastra) has yielded 2,200 dollars to nine tons of the rock.

"Patterson and Co.'s (arastra) has yielded generally 90 dollars per ton.

"Watsonville, Santa Cruz County.—Independent Mining Company, started with 2,000 dollars capital, and is extracting 75 ounces per week; value 13 dollars per ounce, much silver being mixed with it. No further particulars given. Another company is about being organized, to work a lead just discovered.

"Tuolumne County.—There are two mills, the Tuolumne and the Enterprise, which have suspended for want of means. One, the New York, which had also suspended, but which renewed operations recently—result not known. The Big Oak Flat has done but little for want of water. The ore is very rich. Heslip and Yaney's mill not completed. Ore yields 40 dollars per ton. Caroline Mill, the ore yields 90 dollars per ton, sure. Allen and Co., the ore yields 90 to 120 dollars per ton. No further particulars given.

"Shasta.—Washington Quartz Mill—water power; has been running four months and a half this year. Capital 28,000 dollars, but they have expended 62,000 dollars more in improvements. In one period of five days the yield was 4,646 dollars, but the amount per ton is not stated.

"From Downieville our correspondent writes as follows :—

"'There is but one quartz mill in operation in this county, two nearly completed, and several others in contemplation, as there are a number of quartz ledges in the vicinity which promise to be of great value. The one in operation is said to be yielding largely, but I could obtain no precise information on the subject.'

"From Placer county we have the following :—Near Ophir are three quartz mills, viz.:—

"Empire (steam) Mill—cost 7,000 dollars; works 10 hands; crushes 20 tons per diem, and yields 1,000 dollars per diem.

"Union (water) Mill—cost 6,000 dollars; works 14 men; crushes 16 tons per diem, and yields 800 dollars per week. Has not yet got fairly to work.

"Naylor (water) Mill—cost 1,000 dollars; works 4 men, and crushes 6 tons per diem. Value of yield not stated.

"From Yankee Jim's (Placer county) we learn that the only quartz mill in that vicinity is that of H. H. Watson, established in July, 1855, on a capital not exceeding 5,000 dollars. Works 14 to 20 men; steam power; expenses 400 to 550 dollars per week; yields net 500 to 2,000 dollars per week. Rate per ton not stated.

"From Nevada we have the following :—

"'I know of but two quartz-mills in operation above this, viz. :—

"'The National, at Eureka South, driven by water, and thus far not very successful, although the gold that *is* taken out is said to be the best in the country, selling at 18.25 dollars per ounce. No further particulars stated. The other mill is said to be of little importance.'

"From Vallecito we hear as follows :—

"'There are three quartz mills in this vicinity, which have met with moderate

success, having paid from 4 to 5 dollars per day to the hand. They are on a moderate scale, and worked by horse power, the capital not exceeding 300 dollars each.'

"From Sacramento county we hear as follows:—

" 'Several rich quartz leads have been opened in the vicinity of Prairie City, Walls' Diggings, and Carson's Creek, two of which are now being worked with inferior arastras, and produce from 20 to 30 dollars to the ton. Arrangements are now in progress for erecting steam mills, and working them upon an extensive scale.'

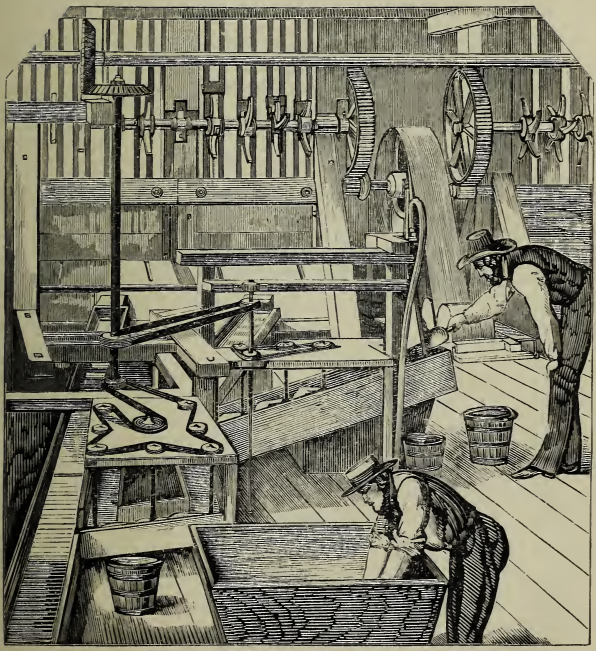
"The most extensive operations in quartz are conducted in Grass Valley, where also is to be found the Allison Ranch lead, supposed to be the richest in the world, yielding from 250 to 500 dollars per ton. It is the property of six men only, who purchased the ground for a comparatively small sum, and are now reaping unheard of profits. 'Since their mill started, on the 1st October, they have taken out from 30,000 to 50,000 dollars per week, and there is no apparent falling off in the richness of the ore.'

"There are altogether eleven steam and two water-power quartz mills in Grass Valley, exclusive of the one of the Allison Ranch, which yield, at the lowest, 5 dollars, and at the highest, 200 dollars per ton. The whole country around contains quartz rock, and we are assured that capital, experience, and judicious management, are alone necessary to make all these mineral riches of tangible value. A gentleman of superior intelligence, and possessing the best opportunities for observation, remarks that the present existing mills and machinery would not crush out the rock known to exist in the Valley in a century."

From the foregoing accounts it will be clear to all, after mature consideration, that quartz-mining in California, in spite of the miserable failures of the mismanaged English companies, is destined to become one of the most remunerative enterprises, in proportion as science is brought to bear upon it.

The intrinsic value of the quartz rock, the facilities of procuring supplies of material and provisions, the certainty of obtaining water at pleasure, and all other minor points, must be duly considered and ascertained before a dollar is expended on the smallest venture.

It should also be kept in mind, that whilst formerly, owing to the almost incredible prices which had to be paid for materials, labour, and provisions, enormous sums were necessary to start any concern, now any such enterprise can be undertaken with much less. Material and provisions are cheap, and produced everywhere; machinery is made in California almost as cheap as imported, and infinitely better suited to the purposes of quartz-mining. In fact, what could scarcely be achieved in 1850 with a capital of 500,000 dollars, can now easily be done with 100,000 dollars, and it will be clear that the dividends on enterprises commenced now must be in proportion.



INTERIOR OF A QUARTZ MILL, IN GRASS VALLEY.

With labour at a rate approaching moderation, and with the practical, scientific, and mechanical aids now thrown open to the employment of capital, the mountains of this El Dorado will soon be obliged to yield up to enterprising man the immense stores of wealth which have lain hidden in their bosom for countless ages.

The plan of operations to be pursued by the managers of an intending quartz-mining company would be the same as that laid down for water companies, viz., either to erect new mills and open and work fresh veins, or to purchase mills and veins already in operation successfully, at a rate that would ensure the return of great interest.

Some of our practical quartz miners assert that the progress which we are gradually making in the exploration of the quartz veins will lead to the *ultimate discovery* of the "*true matrix of gold*," of the existence of which the gold dispersed in the soil, or found diffused through the mass of quartz, is but the indication. There certainly must be some source from which these particles came, and time will prove whether the above theory is correct.

OTHER MINERAL PRODUCTS; AND REMARKS ON THE GADSDEN PURCHASE.

We have spoken at some length of the gold-production of California: not only California, however, but the countries bordering on it—Oregon and Washington Territories on the north, the country east of the Rocky Mountains, together with Lower California and the Gadsden Purchase on the south—are more or less auriferous, although apparently not in the same degree as California itself. But besides gold mines, California possesses an infinite variety of other important elements of wealth, in the shape of mines of almost every other kind of metal; and the geological character of the upper and interior parts of the state, as well as that of the coast range of mountains, warrant a belief in the extraordinary richness of these mines.

The coast range abounds in *quicksilver* ore. The New Almaden quicksilver mines are the richest ever discovered; and since the establishment of the works, the price of quicksilver, hitherto a monopoly, has fallen some hundreds per cent., and would fall still lower, if the company would work the richest veins to the full extent of their yield: we should, perhaps, have quicksilver almost as cheap as iron. Besides the above, there is the Santa Clara Company at work at another mine, and they have just begun to bring their quicksilver to market.

These are the only two companies at work as yet, but there are also many other rich veins, which, with capital, could be worked to great advantage. Some of the quicksilver ore yields as much as 80 per cent. of metal.

Silver mines are known to exist in many parts of the state; and in Shasta county lumps of *solid metallic silver* are often found on or near the surface; and tradition assigns to that district the reputation of possessing rich mines of that metal. No one has, as yet, had time to search in earnest for such mines, they also requiring capital and machinery to be remuneratively worked. Of their existence, however, there can be no doubt, as many valuable specimens of the metal are often brought down by settlers and trappers.

Copper is very frequently met with. Carson's Valley, San Diego county, and numerous other places, seem to abound in the ore; and in the specimens brought us there appears to be a large admixture of gold and silver.

Platina is found along with gold, especially on the northern coast.

Iron ore is abundant; and some time ago a rich vein of it was discovered in sinking a well in the very heart of San Francisco, near Telegraph Hill. *Magnetic solid iron* also exists in many parts; and trappers report that near Eureka, in the north, they have met with enormous blocks of metallic iron, from one of which, said to be upwards of ten feet high and wide, we have a specimen before us.

Lead and other inferior ores abound everywhere.

The enormous treasures hidden in the bowels of the earth in California and the adjoining countries are incalculable; and particularly when we consider that, with such a scanty population—only a meagre sprinkling over the land—and with so little done as yet in the way of intentional research, so many valuable discoveries have been made. An experienced geologist would be enabled to assert the existence of these mineral fields by merely glancing at the peculiar formation of the surface of the country.

Besides all these riches in the noble and inferior metals, *coals* are found in great quantities in different parts of the state, more especially northward and near the coast, but also eastward in the interior. The quality of these coals seems excellent; and no doubt, as lower deposits are reached, they will rival in quality the produce of the English coal-fields.

In the neighbourhood of San Luis Obispo extensive fields of *natural asphalt* have been discovered close to the seaside, at the

mouths of rivers, &c.; and the amount of the deposit may be calculated at many millions of tons. Large blocks of it are broken off into the boats and vessels along the banks of the rivers, and San Francisco is thus supplied with little difficulty.

Further south, near San Quentin, there are enormous deposits of *salt*, extending many square miles. The salt, according to analysis, is the purest natural salt that has ever been found. It has been formed from the evaporated outflowings of some heavily charged saline springs, and in some places is from one to five feet thick. The quantity is beyond all calculation.

Near Suison, some thirty miles from San Francisco, an extensive quarry of most valuable *oriental alabaster* has been discovered, and is being worked. This substance is of the purest kind, containing more calcine matter than the finest white Italian marble. In colour it resembles the *Gibraltar*, or *oriental alabaster*. Some of it is white, slightly translucent, with beautiful delicate stripes; other specimens are of a beautiful light or dark brown, with numerous fine figures and veins. It is found of all sizes, up to blocks of thirty tons' weight. It is capable of the highest polish, equal to agate, but possessing all the softness of marble, which it also excels in durability, on account of its beautiful crystallization. The lime burnt from it is finer and whiter than wheaten flour. We have in our possession several magnificent specimens of this stone.

Granite is found in large quantities near Folsom City, or Granite City, in and about the American River, and also in other parts of the state.

Meerschaum, and numerous other substances and minerals, are found in large quantities in various districts.

We do not wish to tire the reader, else we would enter more into detail, and in addition, speak of many other similar matters which we have passed over in complete silence.

And in fact, these things are so little generally known—in Europe almost totally unknown—that until the growing fame of California's riches in this respect creates a general public knowledge of the correctness of these facts, a personal inspection of the country is almost absolutely necessary in order to form an adequate conception

of the boundless stores of wealth here heaped together, and to prove, by ocular demonstration, the truth of our statements.

In a word, the states on the west coast of North America appear to us to contain in them the germs of a future state of such wealth and prosperity, that the most glowing descriptions of ancient splendour, of oriental magnificence, or of the immense riches of more modern times, seem feeble in comparison. In an increase of population we see the most efficient means of promoting a more rapid development of these almost inexhaustible riches.

THE GADSDEN PURCHASE.

We will now say a few words upon the Gadsden Purchase, a strip of land lately purchased from Mexico by the United States. An acquaintance with its geographical position will be best and most easily acquired by a glance at a good map.

The population is small, numbering but 10,000 souls, the greatest part of whom are Mexicans.

The country has little to offer the agriculturist, as the climate is so dry that the soil admits of but little cultivation; but in mineral wealth it seems to be unequalled.

The silver mines of Tueson, the Arizona copper mines, and the silver and copper mines of the Gila River, are pioneers of that stream of capital which will, no doubt, in time, with a better knowledge of the resources of the country, be employed to bring to light its hidden treasures.

The Tueson silver mines were formerly worked by Mexicans; they have, however, lately been purchased by an American company.

The Arizona copper mines are the richest ever discovered; there are numerous veins of the ore, and most of it is pure metallic copper.

The following is an extract of a letter received by us from San Francisco:—

"Of the existence, and, to all appearance, unprecedented value of these mines we believe there is no doubt. A gentleman of this city, who had resided in the

must have our own steamer—say of 50-horse power—to tow down our flat boats to the mouth of the Colorado, which is not navigable for sailing craft. There—instead of shipping the ore to San Francisco—I propose to ship on board homeward-bound vessels direct to England, at a much less freight and to the best market.

"The above is written merely as a suggestion, but comprises, I believe, the main points—the richness of the ore, and the cost and way of working the mines."

We possess the following small collection of specimens of minerals from California and the Gadsden Purchase, and they serve to corroborate the truth of our statements:—

Twelve specimens of gold-yielding quartz, containing 20, 35, 60, and up to 1,600 dollars' worth of gold per ton.

Two pieces of arsenic ore, richly impregnated with gold, containing 11 per cent. weight of gold.

Three or four different kinds of black gold-sand, containing from 11 to 17 ounces per ton, from the Gold Bluffs on the coast.

Two ounces of pure platina.

Two specimens of solid silver, found in Shasta.

Four specimens of silver ore, besprinkled with pieces of solid silver, from the Gadsden Purchase.

Several other lumps of silver ore from the same country.

Two specimens of copper ore from Carion's Valley, containing 40 per cent. of copper, 6 per cent. of silver, and 2 per cent. of gold.

A quantity of specimens of solid copper, from the Arizona mines and Gila River district, yielding from 85 to 90 per cent. of pure metal. Four other lumps, with from 40 to 65 per cent.

A number of lumps of magnetic metallic iron, from Eureka.

Specimens of Suison marble, of beautiful colouring.

Specimens of natural asphalt, meerschaum, and many other substances.

The *San Francisco Prices Current* contains the following:—

"Contrary to the ordinarily received opinion of geologists, gold was found (in 1851) to exist in conjunction with limestone. The deposits were located on the Colorado desert, and so far removed from the ordinary sphere of observation of persons capable of judging of the genuineness of the discovery, that much doubt rested on the subject.

"Within a few days, however, it has been established beyond cavil that an extensive lead of this description exists in the heart of California. We have seen some very rich specimens obtained from the vicinity of Angel's Camp, in Calaveras county. The rock is a compound of lime, talk, sulphuret of iron, and

gold, and yields from 2,000 to 5,000 dollars to the ton. This enormously rich discovery is 100 feet in breadth, with an unascertained length. The claim of Mr. Bouton, whose specimens we examined, extends, by the above-mentioned breadth, 2,000 feet in length. Previous to bringing his specimens to this city, Mr. B., as well as others who examined them, supposed the rock to be quartz, but their subjection to the chemical tests proved the case to be otherwise, and clearly established the fact that gold can exist in connection with limestone."

In concluding this part of our subject, we would enjoin on our European friends the necessity of thoroughly investigating the reports on these different mineral treasures—both in California and in the adjoining countries—which may be brought under their notice by geologists and others engaged in mining pursuits.

The riches awaiting the liberating hand of man are literally almost boundless, and, by judicious management, immense profits may be made.

THE COMMERCE OF CALIFORNIA.

It will not be considered out of place to advert here to the enormous increase of the trade of the United States within the last eight or nine years, because it is intimately connected with the discovery of gold and the working of the mines in California. We subjoin the following from an article by Mr. C. S. West:—

"The total amount of the exports of the United States at the different periods have been as follows:—

1846	113,000,000 dollars
1855	275,000,000 „
Increase (143 per cent.)	162,000,000 „

"We have presented these figures in contrast with those which Richard Cobden, the great champion of free trade in England, furnished some time ago to the Belgian board of free trade, as follows:—

> "'I will only trouble you with a list of our exports for the last ten years, beginning with 1846, when Sir Robert Peel's government abolished the corn law, and dethroned the ancient protectionist superstition:—
>
> | | |
> |---|---|
> | 1846 | £57,700,000 |
> | 1855 | 95,500,000 |
> | 1856 (7 months) | 64,000,000 |
>
> "'You will find that the above table exhibits a steady yearly progress, interrupted only by the revolutions of 1848 and the war of 1854—1855. But observe the upward rebound of the present year of peace, in the first seven months of which our exports have reached £64,000,000 sterling, being at the rate of £110,000,000 for the whole year, or nearly double the amount of 1846. No other instance of so large and rapid an increase of foreign trade can be cited in the annals of the world. I anticipate that this year our exports will exceed those of France, Austria, Russia, and Spain together—the four largest states of Europe, containing an aggregate of four times our population—and that they will amount to double those of the United States, whose distinctive party banners seem to bear every conceivable device, excepting that of commercial freedom. I have sometimes met with the objection, in foreign countries, that the general extension of free-trade principles would only give an undue advantage to England. But ought not this jealousy to be rather awakened by the gigantic preponderance of wealth and power which the exclusive adoption of the free-trade policy is conferring on her?'

"Mr. Cobden does not appear to have practised his usual precaution, when he boasted that 'no other instance of so large and rapid an increase of foreign trade can be cited in the annals of the world.' The increase of the exports of England from 1846, £58,000,000, to 1855, £96,000,000, is equal to only 66 per cent.; whilst, as we have shown, that of the United States has been 143 per cent. As we have no means of ascertaining the exports of the United States for the 'first seven months of 1856,' we can draw no comparisons for this year similar to those of Mr. Cobden. But conceding his estimate of £110,000,000 to be correct, the advance of £53,000,000 on those of 1846 would be equivalent to only 93 per cent. We may cite, also, in further evidence of the rapid increase of the commerce of the United States, that—

In 1846, the total registered tonnage was	2,562,804
1855, " " "	5,212,000
Increase (101 per cent.)	2,649,197

"These figures are the more gratifying from the circumstance, that the eminent statesman of England has attached so much importance to the proportionate increase of the commerce of *that country*, and its influence on the national strength and grandeur. Commerce is now the ruling impulse of the world, and its influence on the political action of the statesmen of the day is palpable to the commonest reflection. With an increase of population in our own country beyond all comparison in modern history; with a government free from the incumbrances of a public debt, and whose taxes are all voluntary (on imports); and with yet unexplored wildernesses of rich and valuable lands, the imagination of man could scarcely point to the limits of its future grandeur in all the walks of trade and commerce.

"With reference to our exposition of the comparative extent of the exports and tonnage of the United States, we will subjoin a comparative statement of the *imports* of '46 and '55. Mr. Cobden's letter had reference only to the *exports* of England.

Imports of the United States,	1846,	121,692,000 dollars
" " " "	1855,	261,468,000 "
Increase (115 per cent)		139,776,000 "

"But that the influence which the sudden development of the auriferous treasures of California has had upon the commerce of the Union may be better appreciated, we give the following general statement of the imports, exports, and tonnage of the country, for three several periods, in dollars, as follows:—

	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.	TONNAGE.
1837	117,420,000	141,000,000	1,896,700
1846	113,488,000	121,692,000	2,562,000
1855	275,157,000	261,468,000	5,212,000

"This exposition of the prodigious impulse given to every branch of trade by the gold of California, must attract attention with redoubled force, when taken in connection with our long-neglected appeals to the national government, for the construction of that all-absorbing necessity of the times, the great Pacific railroad. It will be seen that during a period of nine years—from 1837 to 1846—our commerce actually receded, whilst in the succeeding nine years—from 1846 to 1855—the increase was equal to 115 and 141 per cent! These augmentations, too, have not been in the trade with California, but in the general commerce of the whole country. This is not the first occasion which we have taken to express our belief that our eastern brethren have obtained the 'lion's share' of the grand display of California's wealth. The increase of the general commerce of England may be similarly ascribed to the discovery of the gold of Australia."

The figures in the above statement are taken from the then latest report of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

We see that our friend Mr. Cobden's usual shrewdness and exactitude were this time at fault, and that he shot wide of the mark in boasting that the increase in the commerce of England was "beyond comparison in the history of the world."

On glancing at a map of the Pacific, and the countries washed by its waters, one is forcibly struck by the commanding position of California, and its principal harbour, San Francisco, for the purposes of commerce. Almost the whole trade of the west coast of America, extending north and south some thousands of miles, and far inland eastward, passes through San Francisco. This immense tract of country embracing not only California itself, but also Oregon, Washington, Utah, and New Mexico. This is also the case with the greatest part of the trade of Vancouver, Western Canada, and the Russian settlements, in the north; and of Lower California, Northern Mexico, and some of the states of Central America, in the south. As these countries and California become better known to each other, and their mutual resources and advantages better appreciated, so will the trade between them and California gradually increase in importance; and, indeed, it promises to become something wonderful.

San Francisco is regarded as the chief and the most eligible market for all kinds of imports; and the merchants of the principal harbour of Western Mexico, Mazatlan, now visit California to make their purchases; and regular lines of vessels run between the two places. The limited direct intercourse between the Spanish states and Europe and the United States, compared with the large trade carried on with these countries by San Francisco, tells heavily in favour of this latter city.

On the other side of the Pacific lie the great empires of China and Japan, with their hundreds of millions. With China there is frequent direct communication, and both the passenger traffic and the goods-carrying trade are very extensive. Most of the Chinese population of California derive their principal supplies from their native country, and the Europeans and Americans take a large share of Chinese manufactures and luxuries.

The City of San Francisco.
in 1857.

The empire of Japan has lately opened its ports to us, and a brisk trade has already sprung up, they having made a beginning with several cargoes of Japanese goods which were consigned here; and although the measures of the Japanese government are restrictive, and throw impediments in the way, yet, being so close, we do hope, ere long, to give great impulse to our trade with this extraordinary people, and foster in them a greater desire to seek out our ports as a market for their productions.

All our necessities and luxuries coming from the East Indies are obtained by direct intercourse with that country. With the Sandwich Islands we are in direct weekly communication, and almost all their supplies, as well for the interior as for their great whaling trade, are furnished by California; and while many of their exchange operations are transacted at San Francisco, with the other islands of the Pacific our trade is increasing rapidly, and nearly all draw the greatest part of their supplies from this country.

Australia herself has imported largely the bread-stuffs—grain, flour, and the like—of California, together with cargoes of cut lumber, spars, &c. In the latter articles we can successfully compete with the world. The abundance of excellent timber, and the scientific and well-appointed saw mills, worked with that enterprise and energy characteristic of the Americans—all this combined, enables us to furnish lumber at a lower figure than it can be purchased at elsewhere.

The immense advantages for the purposes of trade and commerce possessed by San Francisco, in consequence of her admirable geographical position, will be more fully appreciated with every coming year. The harbour is one of the largest and finest in the world; its entrance—Golden Gate—is scarcely half a mile across, while the bay itself inside is a vast sheet of water capable of harbouring many thousand vessels.

Commercial enterprise has already done much for the improvement of the harbour, and we have now many large wharves for loading and unloading, and numerous extensive warehouses of stone or brick running along the water side. And all is admirably carried on, on a well-organized system.

The annexed statistics from the *Mercantile Gazette and Shipping Register* of San Francisco, for the year 1856, will give the reader some idea of the export trade of California.

Table No. 1 shows the amount of gold exported—at least, all that was *manifested;* what left the country as passengers' luggage, &c., is of course not included:—

No. 1.—EXPORTS OF TREASURE.

Statement of the amount and destination of Treasure exported from San Francisco during the year 1856:—

	DOLLARS.
To New York.	
In January	2,687,110 00
In February	2,882,589 00
In March	2,851,719 00
In April	3,490,132 00
In May	3,838,455 00
In June	4,051,345 00
In July	3,106,126 00
In August	3,152,979 00
In September	3,706,414 00
In October	3,432,748 00
In November	3,718,523 00
In December	2,847,154 00
To England.	
In January	647,944 00
In February	497,889 00
In March	623,469 00
In April	595,244 00
In May	642,193 00
In June	808,688 00
In July	825,050 00
In August	703,826 00
In September	848,787 00
In October	725,003 00
In November	815,886 00
In December	932,310 00
To China.	
In January	44,315 00
In February	67,878 00
In March	41,200 00
In April	83,500 00
In May	45,000 00
In June	43,311 00
In July	33,500 00
In August	343,200 00
In September	118,000 00
In October	94,729 00
In November	118,896 00
In December	275,323 00

	DOLLARS.
To Panama.	
In January	15,405 00
In February	15,500 00
In March	15,000 00
In April	21,750 00
In May	22,785 00
In June	29,333 00
In July	21,000 00
In August	23,458 00
In September	20,934 00
In October	21,388 00
In November	25,900 00
In December	20,815 00
To Sandwich Islands.	
In January	9,540 00
In July	5,000 00
In August	5,000 00
In September	72,100 00
In October	23,898 00
In November	84,812 00
In December	41,100 00
To Manila.	
In January	11,500 00
In March	1,392 00
In April	20,000 00
In May	15,675 00
In August	17,510 00
In October	50,700 00
In November	11,488 00
In December	5,000 00
To New Orleans.	
In December	130,000 00
To Peru.	
In February	3,000 00
In March	11,000 00
In April	7,300 00
In May	12,000 00

	DOLLARS.
In June	13,950 00
In July	7,500 00
In October	7,500 00
In December	7,500 00
To Australia.	
In April	8,500 00
In July	17,000 00
In August	12,500 00
In September	18,518 00
To Calcutta.	
In February	3,500 00
In March	1,000 00
In April	26,050 00
In July	1,000 00
In August	2,500 00
In October	13,000 00
To Chile.	
In September	4,500 00
In October	6,898 00
To Costa Rica.	
In April	9,000 00
To Society Islands.	
In July	2,000 00
In August	2,300 00
In October	1,000 00

	DOLLARS.
Total shipments of Treasure in 1856	50,697,434 00
Total shipments of Treasure in 1855	45,182,631 00
Increase in 1856	5,514,803 00

"The total Exports of Treasure in 1856, as compared with preceding years, stands thus:—

	DOLLARS.
Exports in 1851	34,492,000
Exports in 1852	45,779,000
Exports in 1853	54,965,000
Exports in 1854	51,429,000
Exports in 1855	45,182,631
Exports in 1856	50,694,434

"The gold movement outward, during the past year, presents some features worth remarking, when contrasted with that of former years. The shipments of 1856 compared with those of 1855 show an increase of 5,514,803 dollars. Of this sum the increased shipments to England and China make up the greater proportion, as the following comparative figures show:—

	DOLLARS.
Shipments to England.	
In 1856	8,666,289
In 1855	5,182,156
In 1854	3,781,080
In 1853	4,975,662
Shipments to China.	
In 1856	1,308,852
In 1855	347,134
In 1854	633,842
In 1853	929,134
Shipments to New York.	
In 1856	39,765,294
In 1855	38,730,564
In 1854	46,289,649
In 1853	47,916,448

"The export to England in 1856 of 3,500,000 dollars more of gold than in 1855 leads to the inquiry as to its cause. A portion of the amount was doubtless foreign capital, withdrawn in consequence of the suddenly acquired high value of money in Europe, and the insecurity of investments here. The course of exchange probably has at times rendered shipments of treasure direct to England more desirable than to New York.

"It will be noticed that very nearly a million more of money was sent to China in '56 than in the preceding year; this is owing to there having been large amounts of dollars and doubloons received here from Mexico during the past six months, for trans-shipment to China for English account. There is a constant demand for silver in England for China and the East Indies, and the

fact being ascertained that it is a saving of 2 per cent. in freight and insurance, as well as of time, to ship from Mexico viâ San Francisco rather than viâ Southampton, this route has been selected, and for the future, or, at least, until the course of trade changes, we may expect to see the shipments of treasure to China figure up annually a large total.

"The exports of treasure to the Atlantic States, Europe, Panama, and the Sandwich Islands, comprise nearly all of the manifested shipments of gold coin and bullion the product of California; the exports to China and other points are composed of dollars and doubloons received from Mexico. The annual product of the Californian gold mines it is hard to get at. In addition to the manifested shipments of the past year a very large amount of money has been taken away by passengers, and a larger one still retained in the state. Those well competent to form an opinion upon the subject, say that there are 70 millions of dollars produced annually, and probably that estimate is very near a correct one."

We annex the following short statement of Mint operations:—

No. 2.—OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES' BRANCH MINT AT SAN FRANCISCO DURING THE YEAR 1856.

DEPOSITS.

Gold, ozs.	1,645,665 50	Silver, ozs.	69,878 68

COINAGE.

	DOLLARS.		DOLLARS.
Gold coin	25,146,400 00	Silver coin	184,000 00
Gold bars	3,047,001 30	Silver bars	25,343 30
Gold bars, refined	122,136 65		

	DOLLARS.
Total Coinage	28,524,881 25

No. 3 will give an idea of the large quantities of quicksilver recovered from the bowels of the earth in California:—

No. 3.—EXPORT OF QUICKSILVER.

"Specification of the shipments of Quicksilver, from San Francisco, during the last half of the year 1856.

	FLASKS.		FLASKS.
To Mexico.		Per Wizard, July 29	150
Per Cornelia, July 2	900	Per Spray, Aug. 23	65
Per Sophronia, July 28	919	Per Sea Serpent, Oct. 7	148
Per Helena, Aug. 5	1,500	Per Conradine Lachman, Oct. 13	468
Per Genova, Sept. 25	752		
Per Guilietta, Oct. 28	2,000	*To New York.*	
Per Cornelia, Nov. 11	797	Per Flying Cloud, Dec. 31	1,500
Per Carmelita, Dec. 9	150		
Per Adelaide, Dec. 11	1,500	*To Peru.*	
To China.		Per Virginie, July 26	567
Per Alfred the Great, July 2	250	Per Sierra Nevada, August 12	1,000
Per Kit Carson, July 7	100		

	FLASKS.
Total Exports last half of 1856	12,766
Total Exports first half of 1856	10,974
Total Exports in 1856	23,740

"Of the exports in 1856, 13,541 flasks were destined to Mexico; 4,526 do. to Peru; 3,009 do. to China; 2,414 do. to New York; and 250 do. to Australia. The total value exported, according to the Custom House books, was 883,185·25 dollars."

About 75 pounds is the usual quantity contained in a flask.

The following is a detailed statement (per cargo) of goods exported from California to different parts of the world:—

No. 4.—VALUE OF EXPORTS.

"Specification of the Value of Exports, other than Treasure, from San Francisco, during the last half of 1856:—

	DOLLARS.
To Australia.	
Per Lima, July 5	44,088 00
Per Sea Witch, July 24	26,216 00
Per Svendborg, July 24	48,036 00
Per Star King, Aug. 4.	114,772 00
Per J. R. Mora, Aug. 7	21,961 00
Per Wanderer, Aug. 21	12,784 00
Per General Wool, Aug. 22	5,542 00
Per What Cheer, Aug. 29	31,413 00
Per Caribbean, Aug. 30	96,263 00
Per Henriette, Sept. 17	20,000 00
Per Fœderis Arca, Oct. 4	48,733 00
Per Lucs, Oct. 20	875 00
Per Juanita, Nov. 17...	30,124 00
Per Vaquero, Dec. 20 .	15,179 00
Per Colgrain, Dec. 27...	1,018 00
Total last half of 1856	516,904 00
Total first half of 1856	606,463 00
To New York.	
Per Star of the Union, July 31	135,000 00
Per M. L. Sutton, Sept. 27.....	225,000 00
Per Horatio, Nov. 1 ...	65,000 00
Per Flying Cloud	250,000 00
Total last half of 1856	675,000 00
Total first half of 1856	438,500 00
To Mexico.	
Per Cornelia, July 2 ...	42,035 00
Per Sophronia, July 29	49,143 00
Per Kaluna, Aug. 5 ...	61,324 00
Per J. L. Stephens, Aug. 15	550 00
Per T. H. Allen, Aug. 20	24,513 00
Per Far West, Sept. 4 .	5,903 00
Per Alerta, Sept. 6.....	10,613 00
Per Ada, Sept. 6.....	8,626 00
Per Franklin Adams, Sept. 11	2,284 00
Per Curlew, Sept. 19...	2,695 00
Per Genova, Sept. 30...	37,976 00
Per General Yanez, Oct. 17.....	8,164 00
Per Arizone, Oct. 18...	3,708 00
Per Guilietta, Oct. 29 .	98·910 00
Per Cornelia, Nov. 12 .	40,077 00
Per Ellenita, Nov. 15 .	10,274 00
Per Ada, Nov. 25	800 00
Per Franklin Adams, Dec. 4	708 00
Per Carmelita, Dec. 9 .	9,430 00
Per Adelaide, Dec. 11 .	67,909 00
Per Guilietta, Dec. 22 .	6,593 00
Per Golden State, Dec. 24	706 00
Total last half of 1856	492,931 00
Total first half of 1856	288,128 33
To Peru.	
Per Sirocco, July 21 ...	47,171 00
Per Virginie, July 26...	24,918 00
Per Teresa, Aug. 7.....	14,640 00
Per Sierra Nevada, Aug. 12	37,500 00
Per H. V. de Luhe Sildemann, Aug. 23 ...	10,040 00
Per John Stuart, Oct. 14	3,658 00
Per Marbs, Nov. 3.....	290 00
Per Mandarin, Nov. 15	8,650 00
Total last half of 1856	146,867 00
Total first half of 1856	190,825 53
To Sandwich Islands.	
Per Fanny Major, July 2	5,704 00
Per Frances Palmer, July 8	1,105 00

	DOLLARS.
Per Yankee, Aug. 9 ...	20,169 00
Per Ellenita, Aug. 16...	7,864 00
Per Neptune, Aug. 25 .	1,976 00
Per Frances Palmer, Sept. 3.....	16,188 00
Per Fanny Major, Sept. 18	22,019 00
Per Flying Dart, Oct. 4	4,536 00
Per Yankee, Oct. 7 ...	22,068 00
Per Gladiator, Oct. 9...	2,530 00
Per Frances Palmer, Nov. 6.....	18,221 00
Per Fanny Major, Dec. 3	11,156 00
Per Yankee, Dec. 4 ...	15,153 00
Per Aspasia, Dec. 20 ...	97 00
Total last half of 1856	148,786 00
Total first half of 1856	100,516 55
To China.	
Per Imperieuse, June 30	972 00
Per Alfred the Great, July 2	18,925 00
Per Kit Carson, July 8	6,375 00
Per White Swallow, July 19	10,539 00
Per Wizard, July 29 ...	7,014 00
Per Young America, Aug. 6.....	2,555 00
Per Jan Hendrik, Aug. 7	3,972 00
Per Neptune's Favorite, Aug. 20	3,300 00
Per Spray, Aug. 23.....	24,553 00
Per Hamilton, Aug. 29	3,208 00
Per Canton, Sept. 3 ...	3,942 00
Per Sea Serpent, Oct. 7	5,426 00
Per Conradine Lachman, Oct. 14	22,605 00
Per Pudsey Dawson, Nov. 6.....	1,216 00
Per Kate Hooper, Nov. 14	924 00
Per Tourney, Nov. 14 .	1,097 00
Per Jupiter, Dec. 10 ...	1,546 00
Per Golden City, Dec. 20	2,000 00
Total last half of 1856	119,719 00
Total first half of 1856	120,222 50
To Russian Possessions, N.W. Coast.	
Per Nicholas I., July 11	17,995 00
Per Zenobia, Nov. 11...	3,737 00
Total last half of 1856	21,732 00
Total first half of 1556	106,178 91

	DOLLARS.
To Chile.	
Per Anna Isabella, July 3	9,418 00
Per Maria, July 18 ...	11,460 00
Per Emily Banning, Aug. 16	12,086 00
Per Caroline E. Foot, Sept. 20	13,560 00
Per Flying Dutchman, Oct. 16	10,891 00
Per Chalmers, Dec. 8...	6,688 00
Per Tubal Cain, Dec. 20	2,776 00
Total last half of 1856	66,879 00
Total first half of 1856	49,908 00
To Society Islands.	
Per Queen of the Isles, July 5	6,075 00
Per General Wool, Aug. 22	2,202 00
Per Island Queen, Sept. 22	8,995 00
Per Eliza, Nov. 1	8,958 00
Per Queen of the Isles, Nov. 29	3,615 00
Per J. H. Roscoe, Dec. 2	2,634 00
Total last half of 1856	32,478 00
Total first half of 1856	29,341 00
To New Granada.	
Per Sonora, Aug. 5 ...	7,482 00
Per Golden Age, Sept. 5	12,661 00
Per Golden Gate, Oct. 6	555 00
Per J. L. Stephens, Nov. 20	12,000 00
Total last half of 1856	32,698 00
Total first half of 1856	10,428 00
To Ports in the Pacific.	
Total last half of 1856	00
Total first half of 1856	35,453 00
To Vancouver Island.	
Per Otter, Oct. 14.....	7,406 00
Total first half of 1856	15,970 12
To Costa Rica.	
Total last half of 1856	
Total first half of 1856	12,000 00
To East Indies.	
Per Estelle et Reine, Oct. 18	2,039 00
Total first half of 1856	711 00

	DOLLARS.
To Nicaragua.	
Per Sierra Nevada, Aug. 5	1,930 00
Per Sierra Nevada, Aug. 20	500 00
Total last half of 1856	2,430 00
	DOLLARS.
Total Value of Exports in 1856	4,270,514 94

The above statements comprise exports from San Francisco alone. The next table gives the amount of lumber shipped to different quarters from Puget Sound:—

No. 5.—EXPORTS OF LUMBER IN 1856.

"Memorandum of Vessels loaded with Lumber at Teekalet, Puget Sound, for Foreign Ports, from January, 1856, to January, 1857.

DATE.	NAMES OF VESSELS.	FOR	FEET.
Jan. 10	American brig Swiss Boy	Sydney	180,000
Jan. 20	„ schooner L. P. Foster	Honolulu	150,000
Feb. 1	„ barkentine Jenny Ford	Sydney	300,000
Feb. 20	„ barkentine Carbon	Sydney	250,000
Mar. 10	„ bark Ecuador	Callao	130,000
Mar. 20	„ schooner L. P. Foster	Tahiti	150,000
Apr. 20	French ship St. Anne	Sydney	320,000
Apr. 25	American brig Glencoe	Honolulu	180,000
May 25	British ship Florence Nightingale	Sydney	350,000
May 30	N. Gran'n bark Senator (lumber and spars)	China	250,000
June 10	American schooner L. P. Foster	Honolulu	150,000
June 25	„ brig Glencoe	Honolulu	180,000
July 1	„ bark Ella Frances	Sydney	260,000
Aug. 1	Chile ship Coronel Picarti	Valparaiso	400,000
Oct. 1	N. Gran'n bark J. C. Fremont	Sydney	350,000
Oct. 20	American schooner L. P. Foster	Honolulu	150,000
Nov. 10	Chile ship Matias Cousino	Valparaiso	350,000
Dec. 1	„ ship Mercedes Montes	Valparaiso	400,000
Dec. 15	N. G. ship Lizzie Jarvis (lumber and spars)	China	350,000
Dec. 20	British bark William and Martha (lum. and spars)	Sydney	350,000
	Total		5,200,000
Nov. 30, at Port Orchard, British bark Frances, for Sydney			150,000
Dec. 1, at Olympia, American bark Live Yankee, for Sydney			300,000
	Total shipments of Lumber from North Coast in 1856		5,650,000
	Total shipments of Lumber from San Francisco in 1856		3,250,000
	Total		8,900,000

From these statistics our readers may form some idea of the large and increasing trade carried on by California. Australia received from us no less than 63,371 bbls., or nearly 13 millions of pounds, of flour, besides 22,834 bags of wheat, and large quantities of oats.

Lumber is, as we remarked above, also largely imported, the number of feet being computed as amounting to nearly 9 millions.

These are startling facts, more especially when we consider that but nine or ten years have elapsed since the settlement of California, and that commerce and trade did not make a start till two or three years later.

Long before San Francisco was founded, the principal station for the whaling trade in the North Pacific was established in the Sandwich Islands, and to this day this has continued to be the case; but the superior advantages offered by San Francisco in regard to communication, and the facilities afforded for disposing of their oils, and obtaining supplies, will ere long cause the whaling fleets to abandon their station at the Sandwich Islands for the more advantageous position of San Francisco. A beginning has already been made; and San Francisco is now entering largely into the trade herself, fitting up and sending out numbers of whaling vessels, and making large profits.

The commencement and chequered progress of the *importing business of* California is not void of interest, but will admit of our entering somewhat into detail in our description. The importation into California of articles of luxury is enormous, being, in proportion to the population, threefold and fourfold that of any other country: so that its port, San Francisco, affords a most important market for the industry of a great part of Europe and the United States, especially as the returns are in "bright gold."

Colossal and almost fabulous fortunes have been made by lucky and judicious importers into California; but, on the other hand, incalculable have been the losses incurred from excessive shipments, and many a European merchant still feels the effects of overdoing the San Francisco market. In the short review which follows, these two different results will be treated of, and some explanation given as to their causes. Although numbers suffered heavy losses by the swamping of the market, yet some few made immense fortunes by their dealings with California.

We premise a statement of the importations into California during

the year 1856, in the shape of a recapitulation of the tonnage and freights of vessels arriving at San Francisco:—

No. 6.—RECAPITULATION.

"Showing the number of Vessels arrived at San Francisco from Atlantic, Domestic, and Foreign Ports in each month of the year 1856, together with their aggregate Tonnage and the amount of Freight Money.

From New York.

Months.	No. Ves.	Tons.	Freights.
In January ...	5	6,704	154,168
In February	3	4,960	107,638
In March ...	14	15,498	427,744
In April	12	15,383	383,941
In May	6	6,831	162,446
In June	2	3,797	73,160
In July	9	11,890	227,601
In August ...	4	4,590	86,251
In September	9	13,499	218,567
In October ...	4	4,957	80,508
In November	9	11,247	215,942
In December	4	4,070	69,214
Total.....	81	103,426	2,207,180

From Boston.

In January ...	3	3,245	81,522
In February	3	3,515	87,137
In March ...	4	4,086	114,651
In April	6	6,079	175,867
In May	6	6,442	154,332
In July	3	3,504	71,107
In August ...	1	1,184	28,195
In September	5	5,915	108,942
In October ...	1	1,184	21,000
In November	2	1,852	38,059
In December	2	2,156	44,483
Total.....	36	39,162	925,295

From other Atlantic Domestic Ports.

In February	1	916	22,000
In March ...	1	649	15,000
In April	2	1,441	48,916
In August ...	1	938	23,500
In November	2	1,679	44,628
In December	1	632	12,716
Total.....	8	6,255	166,760

From China.

In January ...	6	2,632	85,456
In February	1	340	10,000
In March ...	5	2,903	68,355
In April	2	968	24,000
In May	3	1,515	35,290
In June	9	8,662	111,812
In July	5	3,014	35,654

Months.	No. Ves.	Tons.	Freights.
In August ...	1	298	5,303
In September	2	2,020	35,000
In October ...	5	2,329	41,078
In November	3	2,248	31,355
Total.....	42	26,929	483,303

From Great Britain.

In January ...	1	514	10,500
In March ...	5	2,891	68,100
In May	1	427	17,000
In June	2	729	29,000
In August ...	2	910	16,250
In September	1	469	10,000
In October ...	4	2,432	52,000
In November	3	1,694	41,000
In December	3	1,663	28,800
Total.....	22	11,729	272,650

From other European Ports.

In February	3	1,067	37,900
In March ...	5	2,240	67,050
In April	1	140	6,000
In June	1	254	10,000
In July	4	1,757	55,842
In August ...	3	1,328	45,633
In September	1	494	7,796
In October ...	4	1,806	39,980
In December	3	1,348	29,844
Total.....	25	10,434	300,045

From other Foreign Ports.

In January ...	5	1,719	40,341
In February	2	813	18,000
In March ...	3	1,135	27,500
In April	3	820	16,600
In May	1	475	11,000
In June	3	989	11,300
In July	2	647	14,000
In August ...	3	1,352	34,544
In September	5	1,944	28,586
In October ...	1	320	7,500
In November	1	279	3,000
In December	3	1,144	24,500
Total.....	32	11,967	236,871

GRAND RECAPITULATION.

	DOLLARS.	DOLLARS.
Total freights paid from New York	2,207,180	
Total freights paid from Boston	925,295	
Total freights paid from other Atlantic Ports	166,760	
Total freights paid from China	483,303	
Total freights paid from Great Britain	272,650	
Total freights paid from other European Ports	300,045	
Total freights paid from other Foreign Ports	236,871	
Total freights paid in 1856		4,592,104
Total freights paid in 1855		4,044,514
Total freights paid in 1854		5,311,012
Total freights paid in 1853		11,752,084

It must be remarked here that the freight money of foreign ships is payable only in part at San Francisco, one-half or two-thirds being in many instances paid in the ports of departure, which ought to be added to the amount given above.

The following table of imports will give our readers some idea of the character of the goods shipped to our coast, with the relative quantity of each class:—

No. 7.—IMPORTS OF LEADING ARTICLES OF MERCHANDISE AT THIS PORT DURING THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF 1856.

"The following table comprises under the proper head upwards of 100,000 packages of Merchandise, which arrived here within the past six months, specified upon the vessels' manifests simply as 'Merchandise.' The labour of ascertaining its character has been very great, as every merchant is well aware. We have the satisfaction of knowing that the totals may be relied upon as thoroughly accurate, and we present them to our readers as such.

	3rd Qrtr.	4th Qrtr.
Absynthe, barrels	85	110
do. cases	1,829	739
Alcohol, puncheons	52½	22
do. barrels	8,186½	1,004
do. cases	970	112
do. kegs	50	25
Apples, Dried, casks	10	—
do. barrels	2,834	2,232
Bags, Gunny, bales	1,268	321
do. bundles	200	31
do. number	—	23,000
Bacon, hogsheads	751	153
do. cases	514	192
Beer, English, bulk, hogsheads	1,471	2,807
do. do. do. casks	—	150
do. do. do. barrels	274	195
do. do. bottled, casks and cases	1,049	5,318
do. American, bulk, hogsheads	20	5
do. do. do barrels	22	30
do. do. bottled, cases	976	796

	3rd. Qrtr.	4th Qrtr.
Beef, barrels	76	291
Beans, barrels	2,978	1,513
do. cases	400	79
do. bags	10,359	1,988
Boots and Shoes, packages	17,360	10,968
Bread, barrels	—	163
Butter, hogsheads	112	199
do. tierces	—	17
do. firkins	17,394	22,899
Brandy, pipes and casks	2,201	1,132
do. kegs	1,404	757
do. cases	2,001	1,475
Candles, cases	960	525
do. 20-lb boxes	85,512	55,636
Coal, Anthracite, tons	9,442	10,117
do. Cumberland, casks	604	754
do. do tons	—	143
do. English, tons	655	4,758
do. Sydney, tons	1,752	460
do. Chile, tons	1,180	797
do. Oregon, tons	1,230	1,150
do. Russian American, tons	400	—
do. Borneo, tons	—	197
Coffee, mats and bags	7,004	26,701
Total lbs.	448,393	2,108,889
Corn, bags	3,701	3,259
Corn Meal, puncheons	250	508
do. barrels	1,109	2,755
Cordage, bales and bundles	160	594
do. coils	2,277	2,380
do. packages	1,260	733
Cheese, casks	54	159
do. cases	551	226
Crockery, packages	1,240	697
Cigars, cases	1,194	998
Cement, barrels	4,512	2,480
Drugs, packages	5,366	4,260
Dry Goods, bales	7,045	3,629
do. boxes and cases	14,398	5,501
do packages	1,860	1,776
Duck, bales	702	1,631
do. bolts	301	482
Fish, Cod, drums	693	122
do. Mackerel, barrels	942	635
do. do. kitts	695	782
do. Salmon, barrels	—	850
Furniture, packages	5,168	4,930
Flour, Wheaten, barrels	5,641	450
do. Rye, barrels	160	—
Gin, pipes	531	235
do. barrels	77	40
do. cases	1,924	1,447
do. kegs	62	31
Glass-ware, packages	4,128	2,249
Hams, hogsheads and tierces	2,859	2,269
do. casks	87	194

	3rd Qrtr.	4th Qrtr.
Hams, barrels	115	2,075
Hardware, casks and barrels	585	548
do. boxes and cases	6,767	4,433
do. packages	1,270	796
Hops, bales	150	91
do. cases	6	₣ 3
Iron, Pig, tons	448	130
do. Bar, tons	74	—
do. do. bars	31,640	25,725
do. do. bundles	11,105	5,964
do. Plates, number	758	799
do. Sheet, bundles	2,837	1,589
do. do. cases	103	58
Lard, tierces and barrels	100	5
do. kegs	2,538	800
do. cases	5,305	3,513
Lumber, Eastern, feet	161,508	45,000
do. do. pieces	5,795	6,047
do. Domestic, feet	9,268,000	7,990,000
Laths, Eastern, bundles	58	1,872
do. do. thousands	—	50
do. Domestic, thousands	—	403
Liqueurs, barrels	17	10
do. cases	2,018	762
Maccaroni and Vermicelli, cases	1,296	1,546
Matches, cases	3,802	2,796
Matting, rolls	697	918
Molasses and Syrup, barrels	640	166
do. kegs	15,498	11,420
do. cases	627	—
Nails, kegs	27,319	15,379
Nuts, casks and barrels	1,772	829
do. bags	1,081	1,076
Oakum, bales	270	65
Oil, Whale, barrels	2,135	3,721
do. Linseed, casks	50	28
do. do. barrels	245	126
do. do. cases	306	77
do. Olive, cases	6,244	3,816
do. Cocoanut, barrels	232	30
do. China, casks	77	—
do. do. jars	5,427	632
do. Lard, barrels	106	94
do. do. cases	—	25
do. Gas, hogsheads	—	14
do. Neatsfoot, barrels	—	23
do. do. cases	—	25
Pork, barrels	1,885	1,025
Powder, casks	25	—
do. kegs	6,542	3,697
do. cases	1,107	1,478
Paints, packages	5,622	4,474
Pure Spirits, pipes	257	242
do. barrels	966	495
Pickles, Preserves, &c., barrels	70	916
do. kegs	5,097	2,236

	3rd Qrtr.	4th Qrtr.
Pickles, boxes and cases	39,323	26,912
Pitch, barrels	160	200
Raisins, boxes	1,677	3,859
Rum, puncheons	27	18
do. barrels	330	110
Rice, Carolina, tierces and casks	107	41
do. do. barrels	1,136	1,429
do. Foreign, mats	118,222	79,153
Total lbs	5,269,675	4,001,710
Sardines, cases	1,663	1,109
Salt, casks and barrels	56	—
do. sacks and bags	7,246	4,178
do. tons	886	1,776
do. cases	8,637	3,958
Specie, dollars	350,517	712,428
Shot, kegs	139	269
Sugar, Domestic, barrels	8,431	3,332
do. Foreign, packages	38,249	17,334
Total lbs	2,755,544	1,136,392
Soap, boxes	17,171	23,840
Spices, boxes	3,531	2,209
do. packages	1,154	2,556
Spirits of Turpentine, barrels	454	250
do. do. cases	5,004	3,416
Starch, boxes	5,807	2,317
Tar, barrels	1,457	270
Teas, packages	18,812	14,033
Total lbs.	462,634	361,795
Tobacco, bales	415	154
do. cases	2,595	1,871
do. boxes	2,867	1,888
do. packages	54	—
Tin Plates, boxes	4,297	2,780
Wheat, bags	5,674	845
Whiskey, puncheons	26	111
do. barrels	9,357	4,985
do. kegs and cases	161	250
Wine, hogsheads	708	593
do. casks	440	2,269
do. barrels	2,101	12
do. cases	30,050	15,568
do. baskets	6,507	2,424
Yeast Powders, cases	470	666
Zinc, casks	208	44
do. cases	18	—

Many of the above-named goods were supplied to us in great excess, particularly by New York and Boston merchants, who are now suffering by a "crisis." The excessive importations from Europe to the east of the United States in some descriptions of goods, under a ruinous credit system, found their way eventually to us as a last resort for eastern speculators, and these shipments continued, in

spite of our constant protests, until a short time ago. Other kinds of goods were scarce. The quantities enumerated do not, therefore, give a correct idea of what the supply ought to be.

The news which reached the United States and Europe of the discovery of gold in California had scarcely received confirmation, when a rush of emigrants took place for the auriferous fields. As a general rule, the vessels conveying them there took no other cargo beyond the passengers and their luggage. Many of these emigrants were pretty well furnished with such things as they had considered would be necessary for their existence at the diggings; but little was as yet certainly known as to the nature of the country, and what would be the chief articles in demand. Shippers, therefore, determined to await news from the parties on their arrival, before consigning what might turn out unprofitable, or, perhaps, totally unsaleable.

The few already in the country at the time of the discovery hurried off to the spot, and for a few months had it all their own way, accumulating vast riches in this short time. Then came the first batch of immigrants, and found those there before them almost literally rolling in gold. The man of '48 was flush of money, and was ready to give fabulous prices for provisions and other necessaries, or even for conveniences and luxuries brought by the new comers. The most paltry articles were caught up, and purchased at high prices. The surprise and delight of the newly-arrived immigrant at this bright state of things may well be imagined; to these open-hearted purchasers he parted with as many of his effects as he could possibly do without. The skipper of any vessel that had by any chance brought a cargo, found a profitable market for the same; for scarcely anything came amiss. These skippers, and all returning from the El Dorado, had startling tales to tell of the wondrous wealth of the country, and of the enormous sums to be realized on all sorts of marketable commodities, and the accounts sent home to friends and relatives were of the most enthusiastic description. Immediately upon receipt of such glorious news, the first speculative cargoes were sent out, and the enormous prices they fetched only

confirmed the former news. These first supplies of goods, although the quantity was something considerable, sold exceedingly well, because the population had so rapidly increased—by something like 8,000 to 10,000 per month—and the demand for provisions, and for certain classes of goods, had rather risen than gone back. There was a stir among merchants in all parts of the world. That flour, beans, bacon, &c., &c., should pay 100, 200, and even 300 per cent. and more, clear profit—that boots, shoes, clothing, spirits, wine, beer, &c., and implements of various kinds, should be in such urgent demand, that the sellers could obtain for them almost any exorbitant price they chose to ask—all this was something so extraordinary, that it had no precedent in the world's history.

Relations and friends wrote home of these things, and many who had already made large fortunes returned home rich, themselves being proofs of the wealth to be obtained; while their stories also excited the minds of numbers, and induced them to tempt fortune in this new and promising country.

No wonder if, under such circumstances, not only merchants, but a host of other speculators and private individuals, entered into speculations of the most extravagant character. Enormous shipments of almost every imaginable commodity were made to California: and this time also the speculators were eminently successful, for the same reason as before mentioned—because the increase of the population, by immigration, had kept pace with or outstripped the supply of marketable goods.

Stimulated by these favourable results, shippers again tried their luck, and doubled and quadrupled their shipments.

While these large supplies were on the way, the population continued to increase; cities were rising, and the builders of the same made such profits as to become in a short space of time possessors of immense wealth, and speculation in real estate became the order of the day; while labour rose so in the market, that it was almost impossible to get anybody to work under 1 oz. or 2 oz. (£3 to £6) a day. Such accounts gave again a powerful impulse to commercial speculation. Very few persons had given it a thought whether this state of things could last; in fact, they were all so occupied in the

universal scramble for wealth, that they had scarcely time for much consideration; and whatever they *thought*, they certainly *acted* as if there could be no end to the run of prosperity attendant upon all kinds of speculation.

All at once the accounts of the fabulous prices realized by sellers ceased. News from San Francisco spoke of the arrival of great numbers of vessels with large cargoes. These were the fleets sent out as before stated, and which began now to arrive in rapid succession. Goods, hitherto scarce and high in price, became commoner and fetched less; as more arrived, the fall was greater, and soon losses had to be recorded instead of the immense gains dreamed of by the consigners.

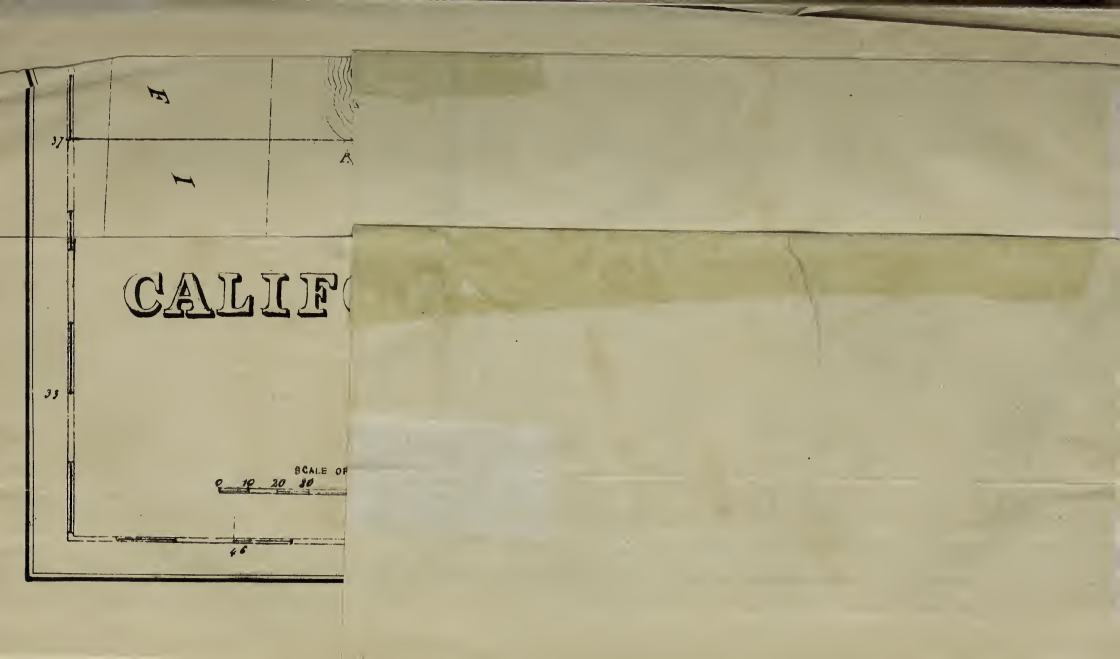
Still fresh cargoes came pouring in. The few warehouses and sheds in the city were soon brim full, as also the storehouses in the interior. The inhabitants had just previously bought largely on the first appearance of a fall, and were thus already in possession of all they needed. They couldn't or wouldn't wear two pairs of boots, or four pairs of trousers, or three shirts, all at one time, however cheap these articles might be. It was all supply and no demand. A few importers succeeded in selling off their stock at ridiculously low prices, determined if possible to save something at least from the wreck.

The news of this reverse in trade had not reached Europe in time to prevent the sailing of other vessels, all freighted and bound for San Francisco. They arrived, to increase, if possible, the general confusion. Some did not even land their cargoes, the price of labour was still so high; while that of others was heaped up on the beach for want of storage room. Thousands of tons of merchandise lay thus on the sand exposed to wind and weather. And soon prices fell, so that the value of the goods themselves would not have paid—neither for their removal into the city, nor for their being guarded, nor for their re-shipment. So there they lay, and rotted away piecemeal.

It is almost impossible to imagine such a complete glut of supplies—words are feeble to describe the state of things just then in San Francisco.

CALIFORNIA

OREGON
SISKIYOU
TRINITY
HUMBOLDT
SHASTA
PLUMAS
LASSEN
MENDOCINO
BUTTE
YUBA
SIERRA
NEVADA
EL DORADO
SONOMA
NAPA
SOLANO
YOLO
SACRAMENTO
CALAVERAS
MARIN
CONTRA COSTA
ALAMEDA
SAN FRANCISCO
SAN JOSE
SANTA CLARA
SANTA CRUZ
MARIPOSA
MONTEREY
TULARE
SAN LUIS OBISPO
KERN
SAN BERNARDINO
SANTA BARBARA
LOS ANGELES
SAN DIEGO
MEXICO
PACIFIC OCEAN
WASHINGTON
OREGON
NEBRASKA
UTAH
KANSAS
NEW MEXICO
INDIAN TERITORY
TEXAS
CHIHUAHUA
SONORA
British Possessions
Gadsden's Purchase
Lassens Pass
Walker's Pass
Tejon Pass
Mohave R.
Sacramento R.
San Joaquin R.
Colorado R.
Great Salt Lake City
Humboldt R.
Bay of Monterey
Harbour of St Simeon
Channel of Santa Barbara
San Diego Harbor
Laguna
Sackets Well
Aqua Caliente
SCALE OF MILES
LONGITUDE FROM WASHINGTON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In the whole country there were then, perhaps, 100,000 inhabitants; and this number was swamped by cargoes of goods estimated at something like a million of tons. Who was to consume them?

Ships still arrived; and in almost every case the crew, often including the skipper himself, hearing how things stood on shore, cast anchor, and at once made for the mines, leaving vessels and cargo and everything else; and many a new and beautiful vessel sank unobserved, or went to pieces on the shore.

The hopes of a large remittance on his goods soon faded from the mind of the speculator; soon he became convinced of the uselessness of expecting anything at all; and in many cases the consignee was obliged to draw on the owner for "short proceeds," in which case the unfortunate speculator found himself saddled with expenses, besides losing his goods, freight money, &c. Shipowners made long faces when they heard of the abandonment of their vessels, and some sent out fresh captains, who, in most cases, finding no chance of collecting a crew to work their respective vessels home, went also to the mines.

The effects of this commercial crash in San Francisco were severely felt in all countries at that time dealing with California; and many were the reproaches, and loud was the abuse heaped on that unfortunate land, by parties who had only themselves to blame for their misfortunes. In their haste to get rich, and encouraged by former success, it never occurred to them that it was not in the nature of things that such prices should continue to rule. The reverse was so sudden and unexpected, and the shock so rude, that shippers became quite bewildered, and but very few were able to think the matter over coolly, and obtain a better insight into the nature of the blow, and calculate its probable effects.

The *San Francisco Prices Current*, in a recent article on the matter, says:—

"What would we think of an attempt to ascertain the loss on those entire cargoes of tobacco and flour which in early times were applied to the improvement of our thoroughfares—the unbroken boxes and barrels made to subserve the purpose of stepping blocks on the muddy sideway? Or the loss on the numerous cargoes of lumber, framed houses and building materials in general, which would not pay for the unloading, much less the freight? The hundreds of thousands of cases of perished case goods; the thousands of invoices of meat

provisions, large portions of which were sold for soap grease; the rotten flour, the spoiled fish, the rusted and worthless hardware and cutlery, the damaged dry goods, unsaleable clothing, and unmarketable boots and shoes;—how should we set about computing the *losses* on such investments?

Many curious stories are told of the fate of different classes of these superabundant supplies.

It was estimated that the stock of chewing tobacco alone during one period was large enough for sixty-five years' consumption! And the article became so worthless, that whole boxes and their contents were embedded in the mud of some of the side-walks and crossings of the streets for the purpose of improving the thoroughfares. It frequently happens, even now, that workmen digging in the streets come upon such boxes of rotten tobacco.

The importation of butter had been so extensive, that had the inhabitants been constrained to consume it all, ere it got spoiled, each one would have been doomed to swallow $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. a day.

Of boots and shoes there were such quantities in store that every owner of a pair of feet might have purchased fifty pairs without draining the market.

In order to consume the wines and spirits on hand, tenfold the number of people would have been continually in a state of intoxication.

Almost all marketable commodities were in like excess.

These superabundant supplies of the necessaries, conveniences, and luxuries of life begat, in the Californian, habits of great extravagance; and yet it was hardly fair on the part of the shipper to expect him to go to such lengths as to chew or smoke 25 lbs. of tobacco, eat $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of butter, and drink 10 gallons of wine and spirits, all in one day; or wear some fifty pairs of boots and thirty suits of clothes at one time: besides performing the same impossible feats with almost every other sort of goods. Still less could he be expected to part with his bright and clear-ringing gold for more of such articles than he could be expected in a natural way to consume or make use of.

In consequence of their enormous losses and great disappointments, the shippers rushed into the opposite extreme, and ceased consigning to California at all.

In the meantime the population increased; mining was very

remunerative, and the production of gold increased considerably; and many of the gold-seekers returned home with large fortunes.

Of the immense supplies of goods brought to our shores, great quantities had been materially damaged or completely destroyed by exposure in the open air. Some had been destroyed by fire, and much had been shamefully wasted; all this had the effect of enabling merchants, who had goods on hand in good condition, to sell at a slight advance. It sometimes even happened that one or the other article became scarce again, and commanded the old exorbitant prices. Still, on the whole, the market prices continued very low, and gave little encouragement to shippers.

Just about this period, great conflagrations in San Francisco consumed, among other property, the greater portion of the still large stocks on hand; and shortly after this, merchandise of almost every description rose rapidly in the market, and before the end of the year there was a great scarcity. From the general depression that had prevailed throughout the previous year, few merchants had dreamed of such a sudden reaction as coming within the bounds of possible occurrences; so that few shippers at home were at all prepared to take advantage of this improved state of things, and the enormous profits again realized by such as had by chance, or by having obtained some inkling, however slight, of what *might* happen, again ventured into the market, and consigned goods to these shores, puzzled them almost as much as their previous losses. Emboldened by this unhoped-for success, merchants of all countries plunged again into acts of wild speculation, and the recklessness of the shipments resulted in a second tremendous glut in 1853. Although not so disastrous as the former one, still the quantities of merchandise in the market greatly exceeded our wants. A decline in price was again the consequence, and again great losses were incurred.

The trade of the country had, however, become more regular, and the general system of transacting business was much changed for the better; and even exportations were made to the neighbouring countries. Numerous fine brick buildings had been erected, the streets paved, and excellent wharves constructed; in short,

everything demonstrated the existence of a more settled state of things.

Since 1854 the fluctuations in the San Francisco market have not been so great. A glut has at times occurred in one or the other article, or even a general depression has taken place; while, on the other hand, there has been often such a demand for some particular commodity that it has commanded high prices, and there have also been times of a general advancement in all, or almost all, articles. Still the time of extremes—of a glut, and of enormous profits—is passed, and now the market is characterized by greater steadiness.

In San Francisco the number of importing houses and commission agents has been reduced almost 75 per cent.

Formerly it happened that whenever a young merchant came out to California, it was with a notion of starting in business for himself, and either his friends and relations had promised to supply him with goods, or he brought some tons of merchandise with him to begin with. Cruelly were most of them deceived in their hopes of establishing themselves, and most of them sold off their things for as much as they could get, then lived on the proceeds for some longer or shorter time, and afterwards vegetated on hopes, till at last these enterprising spirits gave in, and lucky if their friends and relations were not involved in their ruin.

In former times there have been nine times as many commission houses as now exist.

But although a more healthy tone than formerly now prevails in commercial transactions in California, mistrust and suspicion still exist in the minds of many who would otherwise be disposed to enter into more extensive relations with the country. We cannot deny that these doubts and fears are, to a certain extent, well-founded. The commercial community is very intelligent, but it is still slightly affected by the extraordinary changes in trade witnessed within the last few years. We do not mean to say that it is the less trustworthy, for its intelligence is the best guarantee for the future prosperity of the country; and with the expected increase in the population, these fluctuations in importations will, no doubt,

disappear, and the whole trade of the country be placed on a more solid and safer footing.

It should be remembered by the merchants and manufacturers of Europe, that it was almost entirely their own fault if they experienced losses in their speculations on the market of San Francisco; they should have endeavoured to discover the existing relations between demand and supply, and calculated more closely the chances of making a good profit on their consignments.

In California, where ready money rules at 2½ and 3 per cent. per month (formerly much higher), a decline or rise in the value of property takes place subject to these rates of interest; and whilst in Europe, at 5 per cent. per annum, a certain description of goods falls 4 per cent., in California, under the same circumstances, it falls 25 per cent.

The direct imports from Europe have been much smaller, in proportion, than those from the United States. Our American brethren have taken a large amount of the otherwise direct European trade into their own hands, greatly to the prejudice of European shippers; and, generally speaking, these exports from the east of the United States have been excessive. Speculators there imagined California a most available place for all kinds of goods, and, in the face of heavy losses, continued their shipments. Their motives for so doing have been to us, till lately, almost a secret, but the monetary crisis in New York seems to throw some light on the subject; and we confidently state our belief that the greater part of the failures of merchants in that, or other cities, were more or less a consequence of excessive exportations—often totally unjustifiable—to California.

The high rates of discount now ruling in the eastern part of the United States, and the general ruin of speculation, will put a most effectual check on the continuance of such shipments; and before these speculators have recovered themselves—if ever they do so—the now superabundant supplies of many articles in San Francisco will have been consumed. Under such circumstances, we are convinced that the direct trade between Europe and California will increase, and probably attain its former dimensions, and thus re-establish the legitimate balance between it and that of the United States.

The present state of the commerce of California is decidedly satisfactory, and, with due prudence in shipping, merchants can obtain handsome profits.

The consumption of this or that commodity can now be approximately calculated, and the supply is regulated accordingly. To merchants we would rather advise small and regular shipments than larger ones made now and then: the former method is sure to succeed; the latter is uncertain in its results. In fact, the former course is now adopted by all judicious traders to this country, and we ourselves could prove its efficacy by numerous examples which have fallen under our own observation.

Periodic gluts in the market are, therefore, no longer to be apprehended, and consignors of goods may safely act from the instructions of trustworthy agents in the country.

As to great fires, neither is a recurrence of them any longer to be feared. In the early days of California, few—very few—buildings of brick or stone were erected; all were constructed of wood, and closely packed together. One can of course easily imagine how such a city of chips would crackle—how easy would be the ignition—how difficult to prevent the spreading of the conflagration. Thus it is that San Francisco has been in great part destroyed two or three different times. But now, thanks to the respectable substantial brick and stone palaces, and the admirably organized fire brigades, the per-centage of fires is perhaps as low as in any other city. The rates of insurance against fire are still very high, it is true; but this may be accounted a remnant of days gone by, when such things were much more frequent, and immeasurably more destructive, than at present. Accordingly, we find that they are beginning to lower these disproportionate rates, the companies having made enormous profits in the last three or four years.

Not even the most fastidious merchant will deny that California offers a most profitable market for European and other manufactures; its golden riches alone render it able and willing to consume and pay for proportionately more commodities than any other country; and if this merchandise be not sent out in too large quantities, ready and profitable returns are the result—and all the more valuable to

the commercial world for being in gold itself. It is to the advantage of shippers not to keep California short of cargoes; a constant, abundant supply of goods fosters the natural and acquired extravagance of the Californian, and induces him to consume and take up more goods than he absolutely requires, or would be inclined to consume if prices ruled somewhat higher. Thus it happens that even now we are paying something like 50 millions of dollars yearly for goods really over and above our actual wants. Were we more economically inclined, we might be satisfied with one-half of our present consumption, and thus retain in the country one-half of the gold that now flows into the hands of foreign merchants, and goes to feed the industry of other lands. And still we should be living more luxuriously than any other nation.

California herself cannot but desire a decrease in the number of importations; but we have every reason to fear that without a strong moral effort on the part of our population—a large amount of self-denial, in which we are very much afraid we are sadly deficient—we shall be constrained to follow on in this course, and continue to pay away our scores of millions yearly for superabundant importations.

Aided by the above remarks, the reader will be able to form some idea of California's trade in general, and of her commercial prospects. The brilliancy of these prospects will increase with the population, and with improved communication with other countries; and with respect to the latter point, we have now in perspective the creation of that great necessity of the times, the Pacific Railroad, which, it is now admitted, cannot be much longer deferred, whatever *party* may hold the reins of power at Washington. It is not assumed that so stupendous a work can be brought into early practical utility; but it is among the elements—and the most important one—of the future grandeur of this country, and justly deserves incidental notice. Between the East Indies and the United States coarse and heavy goods must naturally continue to be conveyed on the old routes; but the construction of the railroad, and the establishment of a line of American steamers between San Francisco and Shanghai (a bill for

which once actually passed the Senate of the United States, but failed in the Lower House), will naturally present the strongest inducements for transporting the finer and more valuable goods by that route.

The Congress of the United States has already passed a bill for the construction of a military road from Missouri to California. The work has been begun, and the mail contracts, &c., concluded. By this route many will flock to California, and form a welcome addition to our population; but this will be nothing to the powerful impulse which will be given to immigration and everything else when the Pacific railroad has been finished. This will be at once apparent to every intelligent reader, and, therefore, nothing further needs be said in demonstration thereof.

RATES OF INTEREST; INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL; BUILDING AND LAND; BANKING MATTERS.

The rates of interest in California are very high, ready money commanding $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{3}{4}$, 2, $2\frac{1}{4}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{3}{4}$, 3 per cent. per month (equal to from 18 to 36 per cent. per annum). The best guarantees, and those on which money is lent at the lowest rate of interest mentioned, are such as certificates of the United States' mints, or of private assay offices for deposits of gold due in coin within a certain time; together with landed property in the best location of towns, which is mortgaged at less than one-third its marketable value, the balance being left as allowance for the probable or possible depreciation of the value of such property. The longer or shorter time for which a loan is contracted on such security regulates the interest; $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per month being for a period of two years and upwards; 2 per cent. per month is obtained with the above description of guarantee, at times when the money market is momentarily in certain conditions; and at times when it is very tight, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and even 3 per cent. is paid on such loans. The general interest, however, paid on loans, when such security is given as real estate, buildings, &c., is 2 per cent. per month. The rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per month is that generally given with security of merchandise, and such like; and in many cases the parties advancing the money have warehouses of their own, in which such merchandise is deposited, and their advances often go as far as two-fifths, one-half, or even two-thirds of the value.

Three per cent. per month is the supposed ruling rate of discount,

and *first-class* commercial paper at short date is taken by bankers at that figure. Advances on account, against assignment of bills of lading, and other good mercantile guarantees, are made at this rate. Money-lenders of course take advantage of periods of momentary pressure to obtain higher interest; and there have been times when 4, 5, and even 10 per cent. per month was paid with the best security.

In the first period of California's commercial career, its money market was characterised by many curious features, and the interest then paid was enormously high, the rapid rise in the value of every marketable commodity justifying the speculator in borrowing money at even these high rates, in order to undertake something that was to bring him in still greater profits. But since the many failures from over-doing the market, and from mad, unreasonable speculation, with the consequent depreciation in value of most things, the money market has been much more regular; and the extreme care and precaution now exercised by money-lenders has effectually checked any return of such manias. All monetary transactions are now subject to certain established rules, and the rates of interest vary only according to the supply of available capital.

To a European accustomed to hear of 3, 4, and 5 per cent. per annum, it seems curious at the first glance that, at the fountain head and source of the production of gold, we in California should feel the want of capital. A commercial man, for instance, would consider such rates of interest ruinous, and indicative of an unhealthy and suspicious state of things.

This opinion is one that a Californian often hears expressed by persons inadequately acquainted with the resources and peculiar characteristics of the country. But a glance at the rapid development of California, at the immense profits of well managed enterprises, and the results achieved by individual exertion, in a pecuniary point of view, the high rate of labour ruling, &c., will soon convince the sceptic that in a country, where all these things command high prices, the chief stimulant of enterprise, *money*, must also necessarily be of proportionately increased value.

It is, perhaps, somewhat difficult to demonstrate by *reasoning* the

correctness of these views, and the justifiability of such high rates of interest; a few *examples* will best illustrate our meaning:—

A miner in the interior finds that he has settled upon some very rich claim, yielding, perhaps, from eight to ten dollars per day. But he also finds that his supply of water, to work the soil energetically, is insufficient. He requires a small ditch to convey water from the nearest brook or river, a distance of, we'll say, a quarter of a mile to his claim, and for this purpose he must construct a small canal of wood. He is himself at present a poor man, and, in possession of a few ounces of gold, prefers hoarding up his small treasure to going to a present expense of some 300 dollars for his future benefit, even supposing him to possess this requisite sum. By comes some neighbouring speculative ditch-owner, and helps him out of his dilemma, to the benefit of both parties. He agrees to make the required canal, on condition of receiving say two dollars a day, for an adequate supply of water. The miner is willing to pay him this sum, equal to 16 per cent. per month, because he will be thereby enabled to realize, even after paying this charge, between six and eight dollars a day. He can therefore afford to do it. This large profit, obtained by suppliers of water, thus justifies them in borrowing, in their turn, on other property they may possess at a rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 per cent. per month.

A settlement may suddenly spring up in some rich mining locality in the interior, and some 200 or 300 miners be attracted to the spot. This little but perhaps growing community immediately feel the want of provision stores, eating houses, &c., &c. Some merchant with a little capital purchases a stock of goods, and appears upon the place, where his first demand is for a *store*, for the purposes of his business. He soon agrees with some landowner, who undertakes to knock him up a building costing, perhaps, 1,000 dollars, for which the trader is to pay 100 dollars per month as rent; this he will be enabled to do out of the profits which he expects to realize by his goods. As the speculating landowner thus makes 10 per cent. per month on his enterprise, he can, of course, afford to borrow money at $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 per cent. per month, or whatever may be the ruling rates of interest given on commercial security, or land, houses, &c.

There are certainly many risks attendant upon such speculations, such as fire, a failure, &c., &c.; but the 10 per cent. per month is supposed to cover these risks, and after making all due allowance for such misfortunes, the average profits still remain very large.

Again, we'll suppose that a certain description of goods becomes very cheap in San Francisco, in consequence of an excessive importation. In this case, the importers, instead of holding on for an indefinite period, will sell at once at a great sacrifice, because they know that they can indemnify themselves to a certain extent by the high interest they can get for their money. Some clever speculator, however, after closely watching the market, and carefully calculating the amount of stock on hand, and the quantities likely to arrive, with the probable consumption, takes advantage of the moment of the falling-off in shipments—a certain consequence of advices of a decline reaching the exporting countries—to buy up the stocks still in the market, and this as quietly as possible. He has, we will say, 20,000 dollars of his own, but requires 50,000 dollars for his operations; what does he do? He goes and mortgages his purchases, and buys afresh with the proceeds, until he controls the market. The traders all at once feel a scarcity of the article, and are obliged to come to him for supplies, and he is thus enabled to make handsome profits, in spite of the high interest he may have had to pay for the money borrowed. It thus frequently happens that a certain article, selling one week at 25 or 50 per cent. under cost price, is quoted shortly after at 50, 80, or 100 per cent. profit, and continues so until the good news induces fresh shipments. Before, however, these arrive, the speculator has generally already bagged his profits. Such transactions are not always brought to a successful issue, but they materially assist in maintaining the higher rates of interest.

Another example. A richly auriferous quartz-vein is discovered, but the owners have only a small capital, and require an additional 10,000 dollars for the purpose of building a mill, purchasing steam engines, and engaging labour for working the same. They borrow on other securities at say 3 per cent. per month, and set vigorously to work. After three months of operations, they have crushed an amount of quartz, yielding say 2,000 dollars per month. Without

capital nothing could have been done; and now their profits are such as allow of their paying the 300 dollars per month interest, with every prospect of soon being able to liquidate the borrowed capital.

All undertakings—whether industrial, agricultural, or commercial —are founded on the principle that they must be made to realize profits higher than is obtained by these rates of interest; and if they do not, they are considered losing concerns.

This principle is the basis of all enterprise, and is most effectually supported by the high rates of labour of every description. For instance, a carpenter, who reckons his labour at 5 dollars a day, and builds a house in 100 days, calculates on a profit of 10 per cent. per month.

Capital and labour, in their respective values, go hand-in-hand, thus evidencing the healthy state of the social and commercial relations of the country; for it is acknowledged as a rule all over the world, that wherever labour is high, there capital is sought at advanced rates of interest; and where this true and correct relation does not exist between them, there must decidedly be something wrong, which will, sooner or later, make itself felt in a more or less disastrous manner.

Australia at this moment presents a striking example of the truth of this assertion. Capital is most abundant, and banks swarm on every hand; while money rules at ½ per cent. per month, or 6 per cent. per annum—being absolutely lower than in England. We also find that the rates of labour are much lower there, being about one-third of those ruling in California. What is the reason? Australia's gold-fields are as profitable as ours, and her other resources almost equally great; while, as a gold-producing country, it is younger than California, and, we should suppose, fresher on that very account. But here's the point—the supply of foreign capital in Australia is evidently as disproportionately great as the supply in California is meagre; and the effects of this superabundance of capital in the former country are somewhat severely felt by its labouring population. We are not jealous of the enormous capital lavished upon Australia, but we cannot help thinking that on the

whole the state of things in this respect cannot be one of the most healthy.

The above remarks, and the facts and illustrations given in explanation, will serve to do away with any prejudice in the mind of the reader against these high rates of interest; we think we have sufficiently proved their legitimacy and necessity. To those more intimately acquainted with the characteristics of the country, our remarks in illustration may appear superfluous, recognizing as they do, at a glance, the correctness of the principles on which the value of capital is based.

It has been, and is still, the practice of foreign capitalists to invest money in California, the advantages offered being so great; and comparatively large sums are put out at interest and otherwise operated with by European capitalists through their agents in this country. As may be well imagined, the profits are considerable, and a sum of money judiciously administered, and loaned out on good security, ought to return some 15 or 20 per cent. per annum, after deducting all charges, commission, &c.

Amongst the European capitalists the French are most prominent, owning about one-third of the entire foreign capital; Germans and Swiss are possessors of perhaps another third; and the rest may be divided between Americans, English, Belgians, &c. The amount of English capital invested is but small.

It is impossible to ascertain the precise amount of foreign capital thus invested in California, forming, as it does, a sort of floating capital, withdrawable at any time at a short notice; but some idea may be formed of the profits arising from these transactions when we mention that every year no less than 10 millions of dollars find their way to Europe and other parts *as interest only.*

The requirements of the population at large—mining, commercial, industrial, and agricultural—in the shape of capital, are very great; and a much larger amount of it could be profitably invested without causing any material decline in the rates of interest; and an increase of population will naturally cause a proportionately greater demand for money.

It seems as if our own gold, obtained by hard labour or good luck, was not allowed to aid us immediately and directly in promoting the more rapid development of the resources of the country. It is a *produce*—our chief produce—hoarded up and carefully guarded by the miner, till it emigrates with him, in the shape of bars and dust, and goes to enrich, enliven, and profit other and distant lands, whence, after a time, it often returns to the spot where it first saw the light, and becomes, to all intents and purposes, real capital. This gold from the diggings is, in fact, no real capital to California—it is only *gold produced.* What we want is, free and available capital, and as much of it as the Old World can afford to send us out of those very stores which our produce has contributed to swell. A rich harvest will undoubtedly be the consequence of judicious investment.

We hope that the above remarks will be sufficient to make clear to our readers the difference we wish to establish between *gold produced* and *real available capital.*

It must be borne in mind that of the 60 or 70 millions of dollars in gold produced in California, but a small quantity remains in the country, by far the greater part flowing out of it in the three following different ways:—1. By payments for imports of all the different kinds, absorbing, with all attendant charges, say 40 millions of dollars; 2. By the payment of interest on foreign capital, say 10 millions; 3. By the fortunes in the hands of miners and traders leaving us, at about the rate of perhaps a thousand a month, each with a snug sum of money, say, as a total, 15 millions.

The investment of capital in California will be most remunerative for years to come, and it will be more eagerly sought after as soon as the causes, which at this present momen tmaintain the high rates of interest in Europe, are removed.

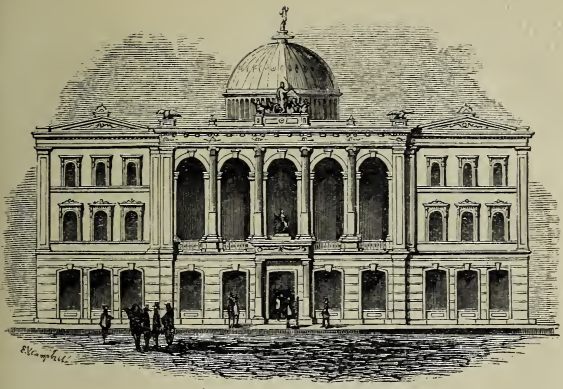
The effects of the large supplies of gold received in Europe during the last few years have been less visible, on account of the late war, and from excessive trading; but as soon as the commercial world has recovered itself, and trade has resumed its wonted steadiness, we may then expect rates of interest to rule in Europe lower than they have ever yet done.

It is not our purpose here to urge the European capitalist to send out money for investment in California, although we cannot deny that we feel a great desire to see the interest of that country advanced by the assistance of foreign capital, which, while making itself large profits, would stimulate enterprise and trade all over the state. At the same time, we are aware that there exists a prejudice in Europe against such operations with California, on account of the heavy losses sustained by many foreign capitalists and speculators some years back.

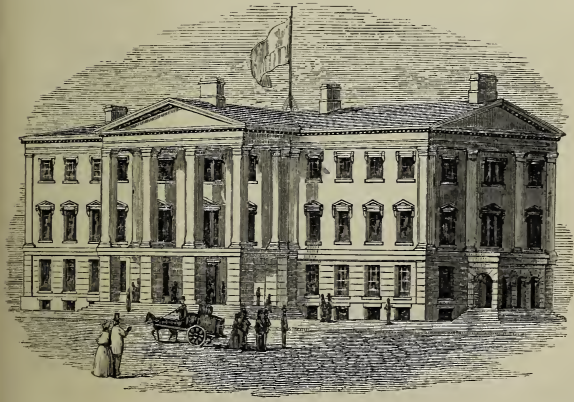
The investment of capital in California certainly has a history, to which we have briefly alluded in our first chapter; and we will here give a few additional facts calculated to do away with the prejudice above mentioned.

When—almost simultaneously with the startling accounts from the newly-discovered gold-diggings, and of the enormous profits realized in trade—news arrived in Europe of the exceedingly high rates of interest ruling in California, European speculators immediately took advantage of the fact, and sent out large sums of money to appointed agents in the country, or themselves established firms there, for the purpose of *making money by lending money.* At that time the rates of discount in Europe were $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and therefore the reports of one's being able, by judicious investment, to realize 5, 6, and even 10 per cent. per month, caused great excitement amongst European capitalists.

At first the agents of such men were highly successful, and many a sum of money doubled itself in interest in a very short time. The enormous increase also in the value of land, &c., at one period, promised to be almost continuous, and capital found a large field for its operations. The whole country teemed with gold; gold was dealt out by the handful—in dust, in nuggets, in lumps, and also in the shape of coin. At first, money-lenders proceeded cautiously; but, in time, such interest as 5, 6, and 10 per cent. per month, had the effect of rendering them, to a certain extent, reckless. This acquired carelessness grew upon them daily; and when the later large supplies of capital reduced the rates to the standard of 3 per cent. per month, still this very fact seemed to them an additional



MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, SAN FRANCISCO.



CUSTOM-HOUSE, SAN FRANCISCO.

proof of the stability of the system of financial operations, which had come to be regarded as a custom. Failures were then unknown, for everybody made money, and any one could obtain money on very slight security, if he only kept up his payments of large interest. After a time, however, one or the other suffered for his recklessness, and a certain rottenness and insecurity crept into the whole system. Still the lending went on, and we must say that Europeans, or their agents, were the most imprudent and reckless money-lenders.

The almost general crash that followed, and of which we have already spoken, was most disastrous. Property under mortgage realised scarcely one-third of the sum advanced on it; there was a great fall in the prices of almost all commodities; and it was with great difficulty if some lucky capitalist succeeded in extricating himself. To crown the whole, some extensive swindles and forgeries were revealed just at this time, to the amount of some millions of dollars. One European house alone lost something like 600,000 dollars, advanced most recklessly on forged warrants; and numerous other European agents were great losers by these forgeries. It was then that people first recognised to what a mad pitch this mania had been carried.

The effect of these losses was a withdrawal of capital generally; and, what was more, poor California got all the discredit for these unlucky transactions, and the unsuccessful speculators seemed resolved to avoid all intercourse with the country from that time. They did not reflect that the misfortune was due to the reckless proceedings of their agents, whose greediness had led them to adopt a most ruinous system, calculated to encourage all sorts of swindling. By injudiciously and criminally forcing their business beyond all natural and legitimate limits, they caused an artificial rise in the value of all securities, even as high as from 200 to 300 per cent. above its real value. The panic that followed must thus be attributed solely to this spirit of indiscriminate speculation. A like system would produce similar results in any other country, as the crises in England in 1847, and elsewhere, abundantly proves.

Fortunately the real progress of California was not materially impeded by these disasters, and its wonderful elasticity in business

matters enabled it soon to recover from these shocks. At the same time the credit of the country suffered, and the ardour of the speculating capitalist cooled down considerably; thereby retarding, in some measure, the desired development of its great mineral and agricultural resources.

These occurrences took place in the spring of 1854, and since then monetary transactions have been characterised by much greater steadiness and regularity. The reaction has been permanent, and it is now difficult to obtain money except on good security; and the allowances required for possible depreciation in value are much more considerable than would be the case elsewhere — not only positively, but also relatively. We naturally expect greater allowances to be made in such cases in this country, but they are *proportionately* larger than in other countries. This is one of the best proofs of the solid basis upon which such business is now transacted.

There is, therefore, no longer any fear of a recurrence of such commercial crises as have been witnessed here: they were much too strange and extraordinary in their character ever to occur again.

We are glad to perceive that many European capitalists, especially Swiss houses, have recommenced investing money in California; and to judge from the heavy shipments of gold from here by their agents, they must be very successful in their transactions.

In a former paragraph we have given an illustration of the way in which some trader in the interior gets accommodated with a *store*, near to some newly-discovered diggings. On this principle the business of building houses on investment was conducted. The demand for small houses, shanties, and even tents, was, in the first times, very great; and many of our readers are, no doubt, themselves acquainted with many particulars and anecdotes related by persons returned from California or Australia, with respect to the high rents paid for the smallest and most miserable house accommodation, &c., &c.

The rapid rise of California's towns is a thing unparalleled in history; for instance, San Francisco, from a barren wilderness, has

become, in the short space of little more than five years, a city of between 50,000 and 60,000 souls.

The shanties and sheds first constructed soon disappeared, and were replaced by habitations and stores more solid in their construction; and now almost the whole of the business part of San Francisco, and most other large towns, is composed of solid, palace-like, brick buildings, displaying much taste and elegance in the design, combined with great practical utility. The owners of some of these houses derive princely revenues from them, as house accommodation is still very dear; in fact, to *pay*, house property must return at least 2 per cent. per month interest on the outlay. For wooden houses, on account of the risk of their destruction by fire, and their being less durable, 5 per cent. per month is the supposed minimum rate of interest, although very few do yield as much now in the older cities.

Investment in buildings has also passed through the ordeal to which almost all speculative undertakings in this country have been, in their turn, subjected; and in the great crisis already spoken of it formed a prominent feature. The losses experienced at that time fell most severely on the Californians themselves as direct owners, and only indirectly on European capitalists as mortgagees.

No sooner did news arrive that *buildings* were paying 50, 100, and even 200 per cent. per annum, than our European friends immediately set to work to provide us with dwellings of wood or iron; and such large consignments of them were received that the market was completely overdone. These houses, constructed at great cost at home, and sent out at an enormous expense for freight, &c., were therefore obliged to be sold at a great loss.

The *building business* has, however, on the whole, been a very profitable one, and many and large were the fortunes amassed in it by judicious investers. Some there were, however, who, coming in at the top of the market, experienced losses more or less heavy: but this could not be wondered at.

Indeed, so much depended upon judgment in these transactions, that many house-owners were realising handsome profits at the very same time that others were failing. The great fault seems to have

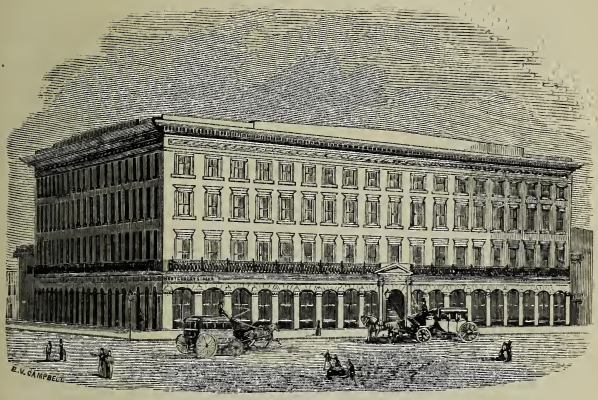
been—undertaking too much. Men went and borrowed money at enormous interest, and then encumbered their estates with buildings to such an extent, that in the crisis that followed, not only was their own property wholly swallowed up, but even the mortgagees were losers by it.

The reaction in this business dates from the crisis above mentioned. Since then building has only been in proportion to the requirements of the different cities, and is now yielding regular and handsome returns. A good business location in San Francisco, of a total value—ground, building, &c.,—of say 12,000 dollars, will pay a rent of 300 dollars (= $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) per month; which leaves a handsome profit to the owner, even after deducting for repairs, taxes, insurance, &c. Again, a house in the suburbs, worth, together with the ground, say 4,000 dollars, will command a rent of 80 to 100 dollars per month. There are, of course, houses that have cost more, and pay less, especially in the older cities; but they were built at a time when the rates of labour were considerably higher than at present; and we are now speaking of the present state of things. In the interior, or new towns, these rates vary, and are generally much higher.

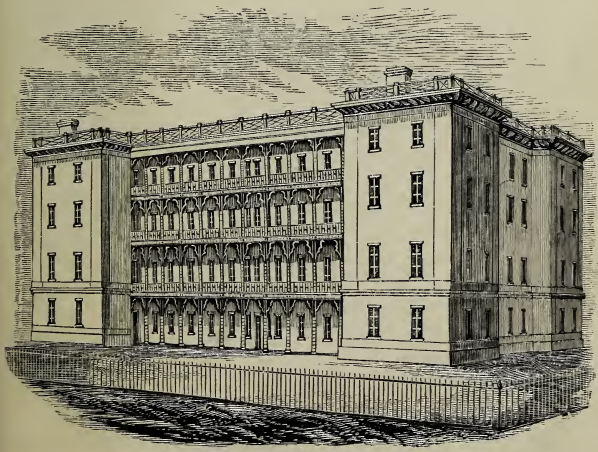
On the whole, therefore, the investment of money in building is still a very profitable affair, and well worthy the attention of the resident capitalist; and an increase in the population will necessarily enhance the profitableness of such enterprises.

After each of the great fires which have ravaged the city of San Francisco from time to time, an improvement in the solidity and goodness of the buildings was made, and more especially with a view to render them less liable to be destroyed or damaged by fire. The generality of the present houses in solid business locality are brick structures, with doors and shutters of iron; and we may confidently assert, that at this present moment there is scarcely a city in the world more secure against fire than San Francisco, as far as the business parts of it are concerned.

The fire insurance companies in San Francisco, mostly English companies, are in a thriving condition, the premium charged being from 2 to 3 per cent. per annum; whilst their risks do not exceed



MONTGOMERY BLOCK, SAN FRANCISCO.



U. S. MARINE HOSPITAL SAN FRANCISCO.

those in other countries—at least they have not during the last three years.

The following article from the *San Francisco Globe*, by Mr. C. S. West, will give the reader some idea of these institutions:—

"There are some six or seven agencies of English fire insurance companies, and several others of New York and Philadelphia institutions, where insurances can be effected at rates varying from 2 to 4 per cent. per annum, the former being the lowest rate charged on the substantial fire-proof buildings, for which our city has become so famous, and the latter the highest charge on undetached wooden structures. Besides these rates on buildings alone, other premiums are demanded, varying from 2 to 5 per cent., on goods and merchandise contained therein.

"It is utterly impracticable to ascertain the amounts paid to these different companies, or even to make an estimate of them, without an inquiry into their affairs, which would be quite beyond the bounds of that respect which is due to the private affairs of every individual in the community. But, reverting to the annual report of the fire department, published a few days since, we find the losses by fire for the year ending on the 1st inst., stated at 104,000 dollars.

"If the real value of all the *buildings* in San Francisco be estimated at twenty millions, which, we think, is not excessive, it would appear that our losses by fire amounted in that period to one-half per cent. on that valuation. Taking this *pro ratâ* as a basis, the foreign companies would appear to have realized, with a reasonable deduction for their office expenses, on the amount they may have insured, an average profit of 2½ per cent.! Whatever these profits may have amounted to, it was palpably a drain upon the country, which might have been retained amongst ourselves through the action of those corporations which our own citizens would doubtless willingly create under a modified construction of the present insurance laws.

"But it is not alone the abstract fact of this unnecessary drain upon our resources to which we would call attention, but to the unprecedented *rates* of these insurances. In England and the Atlantic States, the terms for the same insurance which is effected here at from 2 to 5 per cent., range from ⅛ to ½, or at most 1 per cent. Yet it cannot be disputed that the actual hazards from fire are infinitely less in our city than they are in either of those countries. Who will dispute the superior energy and organization of our fire department? Who that studies the position and width of our streets, and, above all, the emphatic fire-proof character of almost every brick tenement erected within the past five years, will hesitate to admit that the facility with which fires can be extinguished are vastly in favour of San Francisco? We hear constantly of destructive fires in New York, Philadelphia, and New Orleans, whilst for nearly five years, and certainly for the last two years, such a calamity has been with us almost unknown.

"The fires which have devastated our city in its early days have established for it a reputation in regard to such hazards which the subsequent extraordinary efforts for our future protection do not appear to have eradicated. We are paying, in fact, aggravated premiums on our previous ruinous losses.

"Should this continue? Will any reflecting man deny that at this moment the risks of fire in the *business* part of San Francisco are infinitely less than they are in London or New York, especially during those winter months in which the supply of water there is often greatly diminished by ice?"

We might add to the above some description of the marvellous rise and progress of San Francisco, and its present splendour and extent;

but this has been done often enough before; and our remarks on buildings, &c., being merely intended for the business man and capitalist supposed to be already acquainted with the place, we refer the general reader to the descriptions of other authors, and to the few annexed illustrations.

In speaking of *land* in California we do not consider it necessary to say much on town lands. The value of building lots in the more or less frequented parts of a town is naturally dependent upon the fluctuations in the value of buildings and other matters, and therefore this subject is closely connected with the foregoing remarks. The great changes that have affected buildings in San Francisco have also affected land there; and the present general value of such land is something like one-third or a quarter of what it was before the great crisis. In fact, in our opinion, land rules at prices much below its legitimate and real value; and we have do doubt that judicious purchases would be found good investments. The heavy taxation in some of the cities and counties acts as a great drawback to any rise in value; and during a period in which immigration has almost totally ceased, and the demand consequently smaller, it naturally tends to depress their value still more.

But we wish more particularly to draw the attention of the agriculturist and the speculating capitalist to the present very low price of *unbroken farming and other lands.* Land under cultivation in the immediate neighbourhood of large towns has, of course, a certain value in consequence; but at some distance from the towns—say, from twenty to a hundred miles—there are vast districts of as yet unbroken land, which may be obtained at a very low price, varying from 37½ cents (1s. 6d.) to 75 cents (3s.) per acre. These lands consist either of plains, fine valleys and elevations, or of more mountainous regions, interspersed with tracts of land admirably adapted for all the purposes of farming. Most of the valleys are well supplied with water; if not, they may be made to yield abundance of it by means of artesian wells, for which California has already become celebrated. Although, perhaps, at some little dis-

tance from any considerable town, still the communication is rapid and easy.

Without even taking into consideration the extraordinary agricultural richness of these valleys, or the stores of mineral wealth that may be hidden there, it seems unaccountable to us that the land is so cheap. In Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, &c., the lowest price for government land is $1\frac{1}{4}$ dollar, while in California it can be bought for half, or less than half the price! This is an astonishing fact, but true, nevertheless.

Most of the lands in California are held by Mexican titles, and old Mexican settlers own in some cases more than 100,000 acres. Government holds but little land. These Mexican settlers have neither the energy nor the intelligence to turn such magnificent land to proper account; and as these large estates yield them next to nothing, and the taxes on them are something considerable, they prefer disposing of them at a low figure, in order with less trouble to realize something from them.

Again, a great quantity of such land had been bought up by speculating Americans, who anticipated a more rapid increase of the farming population by immigration, &c. Disappointed in their expectations, they found themselves nearly or quite ruined by the speculation, and in order to raise money by some means or other, were obliged to sell at a great sacrifice. At the same time, to increase their misfortune, the insecurity of titles, and the consequent losses of imprudent purchasers, had shaken the confidence of buyers in general.

These things have no doubt been the chief causes of the depreciation of land; but it must be borne in mind that at least three-fourths of our labouring population are engaged in mining occupations, and that amongst the remaining small number of agriculturists there can scarcely be a great demand for more land. There is, therefore, every probability of the above-mentioned prices ruling for some long time to come, until a marked increase in our agricultural population takes place; and to this we look forward with confidence. It will be the signal for a sudden and general rise in the value of land in general.

The matter of titles is now in a much more satisfactory state, and

we quote these prices for land under *best* title; so that no fear needs now be entertained on that head, if purchases are made with any degree of prudence.

In the meantime, the subject of these cheap lands is well worthy the attention of the agriculturist who wishes to take advantage of a favourable time like the present, and of the capitalist who takes the trouble of making himself thoroughly acquainted with the resources and prospects of California; the one and the other would find a purchase at this period a very profitable transaction. The present rates are so low—so ridiculously low—that a loss is scarcely probable, unless it be from the land lying idle while taxes are being paid for it. But capitalists might combine with a purchase of land, farming on a large scale, especially sheep-farming, the profits of which can be shown to be very great.

California, in fact, will soon successfully vie with Australia in the production of fine wools. Sheep-farming is as yet, from divers causes, only in its infancy; but a rapid development of this branch of industry will be the consequence of a judicious investment of capital.

It may seem surprising to the reader that we have *no public bank* in California; as it would naturally be supposed that a country of such great resources, and producing so much gold, must offer a large and profitable field for the operations of such an institution.

All our banking matters are at present in the hands of private bankers, who are doing, on the whole, a very profitable business, as may well be imagined. These banking firms, one of which is agent for drafts on Rothschild, are concerns of a generally acknowledged respectability, and far be it from us to wish in the slightest degree to injure their reputation by any remark of ours. But still we contend that, with all their respectability, these banking firms are not adequate to meet *all* the requirements of the country in money matters. On the present system, and with the present amount of operations, they may seem sufficient to assist the business of the place, and we firmly believe that there is scarcely room for more private banks. But something more is wanting to afford us that

confidence in banking matters so necessary to a rising country like California, and in which we are sadly deficient. This we consider would be most efficaciously remedied by the establishment of a public bank.

The failures of such private banking houses as Page, Bacon, and Co. (supposed the richest firm in America), Adams and Co., and others, whereby thousands of people were ruined, are still fresh in the memory; and although the now existing older banks have stood firm in crises fatal to many others, and are considered perfectly safe, still the shocks received by the public have been so severe, that years will elapse before perfect confidence is restored.

Our honest working miner, instead of sending his gold to some bank for safe keeping or for interest, now either carries his bag of dust or nuggets fastened round his waist, guarded by revolvers, or buries it in some secluded spot. Many millions lie thus useless in the soil, which might otherwise be the means of benefiting thousands of human beings.

A curious illustration of this want of confidence is the fact that the United States' Branch Mint in San Francisco has constantly in its vaults several millions of gold, the property of miners and others, and brought to be coined, but which they leave in the stores of the mint as long after coinage as the law permits, for safety's sake. "Uncle Sam," say they, "is secure, and can do nothing with our money, but keep it for us."

The merchants also keep their accounts with a banker, principally for the facilities afforded them in conducting their business; but they seldom or never keep a large balance there, preferring to stow away large sums in their iron safes.

Other merchants, again, on account of former losses, hesitate to buy drafts on the east of the United States and on Europe for remittance; and although shipments of gold are more troublesome, and often more expensive than drafts (a banker having more facilities for buying gold), still they prefer sending gold. Hence the long list of small amounts shipped by every steamer, which would otherwise be forwarded through a bank.

It is clear from the above that banking matters in California are

not in a very satisfactory condition, and it seems equally clear that the best means of remedying it would be *the establishment of a good public bank*. Such an institution, with a large paid-up capital, partly invested in a careful and remunerative manner, and partly kept in hand, to be used as occasion required, would soon re-establish confidence in California. It should be placed under the management of trustworthy and intelligent persons, and publish its accounts every week, besides keeping the books always ready for inspection. In this way our traders and miners would get an insight into its affairs, and have a sort of control over its doings. Strict rules for its guidance should be laid down, having for an aim the gradual establishment of an entirely new financial system throughout the country; to effect which, only such regard should at first be paid to the immediate gains of the concern as may seem absolutely necessary.

It is difficult to calculate the great influence that would in time be exercised by such a bank. All the treasure now lying idle in the hands of individuals, who have little or no trust in private banking houses, would flow into the vaults of the new institution; all remittances and other monetary matters would be freely given into the hands of the concern; and it may well be imagined what profits would accrue therefrom, as soon as the changes in the system brought about by this bank had begun to operate.

In Australia public banks abound, with numerous branches and agents, and these banks are said to thrive. Now we contend that the field in California is a richer one by far. California produces quite as much gold as Australia, and is more advanced in agriculture, while the commercial relations it already entertains with all parts of eastern Asia, the entire western coast of America and Polynesia, together with Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Vancouver Island, and Western Canada, are opening for it a future career, the grandeur and extent of which are at present totally inappreciable. The rapid communication with the east of the United States and Europe is another great advantage. In addition to this, a fine waggon road is in course of construction from the middle states of the Union, to be soon followed by a Pacific Railroad, with all the attendant settlements, which cannot fail to spring up all along the fertile

valleys of the wonderful country through which it is to pass. All these things will tend to California's advancement.

Australia is small in comparison with these vast regions; besides which, its interior is little better than a desert. Its trade is carried on through several different ports—Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Port Philip, neither of which can compare, for the extent of its commerce, &c., with San Francisco; and yet they all have public banks, branch banks, &c., &c.

Now, does not San Francisco, the centre of all the exporting and importing trade of the western part of North America, present a much wider and more remunerative field for the operations of such an institution as we have above described? Why, then, has no bank of the sort been established? We declare that we are totally unable to answer this question.

There is certainly a clause in the constitution of the state forbidding both the granting of charters to public banks and the emission of bank-notes. This latter clause has even been strengthened by subsequent laws. It must not, however, be supposed that there exists any real hindrance to the establishment and working of a bank such as we have described. It would be simply necessary to adopt the "*limited liability*," or "*société anonyme*" system, which would be an advantage rather than otherwise. And with respect to the clause prohibiting the emission of bank-notes, that was introduced for the purpose of checking all kinds of swindling as might arise from such transactions, especially as no other medium than gold has been hitherto required in the state. But as soon as it can be proved that this emission of bank-notes is a necessity, or even a convenience for commercial purposes, we feel certain that the present law on the subject will be altered to suit the altered circumstances of the state; and as government securities become more settled in their value, the permission for a note circulation, on the basis of that of the Bank of England, would no doubt be obtained.

But, independent of bank-notes, the field for the operations of a public bank in California is wide and promising; equal, or superior, to that of anything of a like nature which may be established elsewhere.

We will not, however, enlarge upon the principles for the establishment of a large public bank like the one we propose, or upon the rules to be laid down for its guidance, we only wish to prove, as far as lies in our power, by simple reasoning, that the want of such an institution exists and is felt, and that it would turn out a remunerative affair. At the same time there are a few points which we may mention in connection with this subject. At present there is a want of such first-class securities as would be desirable for a bank of this description. Its business and chief source of revenue would be the receiving of deposits, and the investment of a part of them for the realization of interest for the benefit of the concern. Its first transactions of this nature would have to be conducted in a most careful and limited manner. We will suppose that after a while the deposits attain the figure of say 3 millions of dollars; well, in other countries it might be quite safe to invest one-half, or even two-thirds of the same, in anything of good security and yielding a tolerable interest; but in California, with the present rates of interest, and the state of commerce in general, this would be decidedly imprudent. Anybody familiar with banking matters will see at once, that if such a bank had it in its power to invest two-thirds of the deposits at rates of 2 and 3 per cent. per month, without fear of over-doing the thing, the dividends on the original capital would amount to some hundreds per cent. per annum. One-fourth of the sum of these deposits would be, perhaps, all that could safely be employed in investment; and the balance should remain untouched. The above one-fourth should be dealt out sparingly and with all due caution, for it will be obvious to all, we think, that where so very few facilities for banking have previously existed, there can be but a very primitive system, and only a limited amount of ready and desirable security.

The sudden assistance afforded by the erection of a large public bank would give so great an impulse to affairs in general, that it would tend to create a fictitious value of securities; a state of things which invariably prepares the way for a crisis. But if such assistance comes carefully and slowly, and not in advance of the requirements of trade and the development of the resources of the country,

but rather behind the same, it will create a healthy and prosperous state of things, and a gradual increase in the sort of securities desired. Before arriving at this satisfactory result, some few years may elapse; but the profits of such a bank would be in the meantime something handsome, yielding dividends of from 10 to 15 per cent. per annum, or more; and by proceeding in this cautious manner the bank would prepare for itself a future of great influence and power. This object attained, we have no hesitation in saying that the dividends would attain a figure altogether unheard-of in the annals of banking.

The field is open, and the prospects excellent; we therefore trust capitalists will well weigh the matter, and will assist California to the best of their power. We must necessarily look to Europe for the starting and establishing of such an institution, as our own capital and that of the United States is not available for such a purpose; and the recent crisis will prevent any advancement from the latter quarter.

The prejudices against American securities should not influence the judgment of the capitalist with regard to a bank in California. The nature of such an affair is different from that of investment in railways, &c. In fact, the case is a reversed one; for, instead of asking European capital to exhaust itself here in inconvertible securities, we ask merely for its presence among us for the purpose of investing our own means in the guarantee which its comparative cheapness and its good managemement would afford us.

A country like California, so rich in the precious metals, and in its varied produce—yielding annually, not only 70 millions of dollars in solid gold, but many more millions besides in produce, and blessed with a most promising commerce and a rapidly rising industry, with the prospect of still greater results by an increase in the population—must have some channel through which these almost boundless treasures may flow, or where they may accumulate with safety. A public bank in California would, therefore, soon become as powerful and beneficial an institution as the Bank of England.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE "TIMES."

Just before going to press with our next chapter, the *Times* of the 31st October inst. published a letter from its special correspondent in San Francisco, dated 20th September, and we take the liberty of inserting in our little work some extracts from it. The facts contained in it fully corroborate our remarks, more especially with respect to the more important characteristics of the country and its inhabitants. This confirmation of our own personal opinion is of course gratifying. The correspondents of this powerful journal—the centre of all truthful information from all parts of the world—are known to the English public as men of great intelligence, and their reports may be relied upon from the extreme caution with which they are prepared. This "caution" on the part of the agents of the *Times* is particularly exercised with respect to news from the American states; and there is no fear of their overrating in their letters anything favourable that may transpire in any of them. We subjoin the extract.

"STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

(from our own correspondent.)

"*San Francisco, Sept.* 20.

"The official return of votes cast in favour of paying the state debt has not yet been received from all the counties, and the fact has not been certified by the Secretary of State, so that we have no legal evidence of the result; but so many of the returns favourable to payment have come in as leave no moral doubt that a majority of the electors have voted to 'pay the debt.'

"The citizens of San Francisco have got up a Mechanics' Fair—a sort of Crystal Palace in miniature—which displays an array of articles in the departments of the material arts and mechanics highly creditable to the skill and industry of the working classes, and to the spirit and enterprise of the people of the state generally.

"Specimens of native wines, brandies, and other spirituous drinks; medicines extracted from native herbs; sugar from beetroot grown in a neighbouring valley; perfumeries distilled from native flowers; soaps; brushes from Californian bristles; brooms from native reeds; paper from bulrushes; quartz-crushing machines in variety enough to enable the most extravagant gold-hunter to realize his dreams of wealth; billiard tables of great beauty and accuracy, said to be equal to 'Thurston's best;' pianos of good tone, as is professed by their makers, and of exquisite workmanship and tasteful form, as is apparent to all; furniture made in San Francisco, equal in material, design, and finish to the best modern workmanship of London and Paris, and (what is of more consequence to buyers) offered at prices cheaper than good rosewood articles can be imported; agricultural implements, which, from their variety and novelty of design, should make the very desert produce abundance—these are a few of the vast number of articles of utility in the fair. As for the cereals, seeds, fruits, and vegetables, the first two are so prolific, and the latter two of so prodigious a size, that if I were to give their products and dimensions in weight and measurement, my statement would be doubted. It is only a rich, deep, virgin soil, assisted by a most genial climate, that produces such monstrous vegetables and such gigantic corn stalks and seeds as are to be seen here, and I know of no other country which possesses a soil and climate equal to ours. The specimens of minerals are very numerous, very curious, and many of them very beautiful and valuable, but it would require too much space to describe them.

"The exhibition of so large and varied a collection of native articles which enter into the general consumption of the country, got together on a short notice in a state yet in infancy, gives rise to important reflections.

"Hitherto we have been dependent upon foreign countries for our supplies of every kind. What we ate, drank, and wore, we were obliged to import, and to pay fabulous prices for. Living on a desert sandy beach in 1849, prices were regulated by caprice, and ordinary comforts were only obtained by a waste of money. Even our staple product—gold—which we were accustomed to look upon as the means of supplying all human wants, did not serve us, for we were obliged to export it, to receive back coin from the United States, and from the countries of the old world to serve us as a circulating medium, for, after a year or two's use, gold-dust was found too inconvenient to be continued in that capacity. How great a change the few short years of our existence as a nation have produced, was strikingly illustrated by the secretary in his address at the opening of this fair.

"I should like to cull a few facts from this very interesting, practical, and sensible document, written by a carpenter of San Francisco—a composition which I fear few of his class of life in any other country could produce, and which I take to be a striking exemplification of the benefits of a system of universal education, regardless of creed, established among a people.

Passing by his agricultural statistics simply with the remark, that while in 1850 we had to import the food necessary to support life, we now export grain and flour to an extent that saves the country 10 million to 12 million dollars at the low prices now obtained, but which, at the high rates which ruled at the periods when we were dependent upon foreign supplies, would have cost 20 million dollars a-year—I will notice a few of the facts which show the progress of native manufactures:—Sugars and syrups, which were imported to the value of several millions of dollars, are now manufactured in the country, and the facilities of obtaining the raw sugars from the coasts and islands of the Pacific, China, and other Eastern countries, are such as to enable the sugar refiners to undersell the importers of refined sugars; while the successful experiments, which have lately been made in the culture of the sugar-cane in California, justify the expectation that the soil of this state will produce sufficient of the raw material to supply the consumption of the country. The rope

heretofore consumed has cost from 300,000 to 400,000 dollars annually. A cordage factory now supplies our wants in that line at cheaper rates than it can be imported, our facilities of obtaining the raw material from Manilla enabling the manufacturers here to undersell the Atlantic and European importer. There are thirty tanneries in operation, making leather used for harness, mill straps, and personal use, although a vast quantity of hides are exported to the Atlantic States. Fourteen foundries, and a great many machine shops supply the country with steam-engines, boilers, quartz-crushing machines, and a variety of iron and steel work, of good quality and construction, at comparatively low prices. Steamboats and sailing vessels are continually being built for the inland navigation and coast trade. Agricultural implements and carriages of all sorts are made; and, to descend to small but necessary articles, fancy soaps and perfumes, which till last year took 600,000 dollars a-year away to pay to the foreign manufacturer, are now made on the spot, and promise to render us independent of importation.

"Lumber, which we formerly received from the Eastern States and Chili, is now largely exported, besides supplying home wants, and at this moment sleepers to the amount of three millions of feet are being sent to Chili for the Valparaiso and Santiago railroad.

"I might state other facts to show the vast progress made in a few years in a variety of other industrial pursuits, did I not fear to occupy too much of your space.

"I may here mention, opportunely, that the reduction of imports accounts for the falling-off in the export of gold, which has ignorantly been attributed to the exhaustion of the mines—a fallacy which ill-informed writers abroad had fallen into.

"On the 31st ult, the first Government mail arrived from the Atlantic, across the continent to San Diego, in the southern portion of California. The trip was not quite successful, owing to the knocking-up of the animals. It took thirty-four days to make the trip. When the arrangements are perfected, is will be accomplished in twenty-five days. The mail riders report a large emigration to be on the way by this, the southern, route, to California. The American Government is digging wells in the desert, and improving the road for the benefit of the western emigrants, who have so great an aversion to a sea voyage that they prefer spending a year on the road, to coming by way of Panama in five or six weeks' time. We look for a great emigration across the plains this year.

"Mining operations, both in quartz and in placer digging, are carried on with as much zeal as ever. Now that the water has failed in such districts as are not artificially supplied by canals, much work is being done in the beds of rivers while the streams are low, and in many instances the streams have been turned out of their natural channels so as to lay bare the beds, which are then dug; and in many instances these prove very rich in deposits of coarse gold. Artificial canals are much on the increase—still much wanted, and are good paying concerns when well and honestly managed."

In the above, the correspondent, alluding to the enormous yield of agricultural produce, the wonderful size of vegetables, fruit, &c., avows that he is afraid of quoting the real quantity and size of these things, for fear that his statement should be doubted. We ourselves have found that many of our friends, to whom in conversation we have spoken of the vegetable wonders of the country, seemed to doubt the correctness of our statements; so extraordinary

and unusual that seemed to them, which to us was perfectly natural and familiar.

But "truth is often stranger than fiction," says the proverb. And therefore, unlike the intelligent correspondent of the *Times*, we shall show more courage, and in our next chapter proceed to give a true, though perhaps short, description of the climate and soil, and of the agricultural and horticultural produce of the country; and substantiate our assertions by extracts from the reports of committees employed to examine into such subjects, and from different respectable newspapers of the place.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF CALIFORNIA.

Some account of the climate and agricultural resources of California can but be interesting to the intending emigrant, and more especially to him who wishes to gain a livelihood in the new country by the cultivation of its soil.

We will begin by making the following assertion:—*There does not exist under the sun a country so wonderfully endowed with agricultural advantages as California—not a country more brilliant in its climate, nor one whose soil is more productive.*

And first, a few words on the climate.

The year is divided into the dry and rainy seasons. The dry season includes the greatest part of the spring, all the summer, and a great part of the fall. During all this time there is *constant sunshine.* Heavy dews fall in spring and autumn, whilst the summer nights—at least in high summer—are more or less dry. Near the coast the heat is moderate, owing to the breezes which blow during the hottest part of the day; and the temperature is rarely as high as that of an English summer. In some of the counties—far in the interior, however—the heat is much greater in proportion to their latitude, on account of the absence of these cooling sea-breezes.

In the middle of the day the heat in the interior is sometimes great, but it has nothing of that depressing, suffocating character which we observe during a hot summer day in England. The atmosphere retains its clearness and invigorating influence. But however warm a day may have been, towards evening the air becomes fresher and cooler, and whilst the temperature remains very mild and agreeable, it is just cool enough to make you enjoy a light blanket; and this pleasant freshness contrasts strongly with the

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VIEW ON CLEAR LAKE.

sweltering and suffocating summer nights in some parts of Europe or the tropics.

The rainy season generally commences in the latter part of November, and lasts till about April. But it must not be supposed that by *rainy season* we mean *perpetual rain;* it may rain sometimes for a week or a fortnight together, with occasional cessations during the day; but then again there are intervals of fine, sunny weather, lasting also a week or a fortnight; and these are perhaps without exception the most agreeable periods of the year—so mild, so freshly green, so comfortably warm, and such a relief after a long spell of rain. In fact, the rainy season in California resembles nothing so much as a rather rainy summer in England. The temperature very rarely falls below zero, and ice has made its appearance but a few times; snow is very seldom seen except in the mountainous regions towards the Rocky Mountains, where it falls copiously, and supplies the streams with water during summer.

A curious feature in the climate of California is the almost total absence of thunderstorms. In the south of the state they are said to occur sometimes, but farther north they are unknown; and the rolling of the artillery of heaven has never been heard in San Francisco.

Slight shocks of earthquake are felt occasionally, as all along the Pacific shores, originating, no doubt, from the volcanoes of the Sandwich Islands, some thousand miles from us; but these vibrations are very slight, and never create alarm or do the least damage.

From the above description the reader will perceive that the climate is a very moderate one, requiring scarcely ever either very light or very heavy clothing; and one might almost wear one suit of moderately thick texture—say black cloth—from year's end to year's end.

With such a regular temperature it may be supposed that the climate is healthy; and that it is so, is proved by the bills of mortality, which show a per-centage far below that of any other country. And if we take into consideration the character, habits, and exciting life of this heterogeneous population, this favourable comparison will appear still more striking. San Francisco has a population of about 50,000, and the average number of deaths for the last years has

been but twenty-two per week. Let the reader compare this with the bills of mortality of other cities, and he will be better able to appreciate the truth of our statements with regard to the healthiness of the place.

The air of California is fresh and invigorating, having a most beneficial effect upon the blood and the lungs. But its crystal clearness is most extraordinary. Looking from an elevation upon a widely-extended landscape, you are surprised at the distinctness of every object; the outlines of the thirty to fifty miles distant mountains are so sharply defined—as by the finest cutting instrument—that they appear much nearer than they really are; and every shade of colour is distinctly visible. Standing on Telegraph Hill, in San Francisco, you have a most splendid view of the city itself, and of the large bay, with Oaklands some nine miles distant on the opposite shore; and although the large vessels in the harbour appear but small boats, you can yet plainly distinguish every rope and line in them, and almost fancy you can grasp the trees of distant Oaklands, so beautifully clear and transparent—almost painfully clear to the unaccustomed eye—is the atmosphere of California.

Added to this, its dryness, and the absence of decomposing qualities, are also matters of astonishment. A dead rat or dog, instead of becoming putrefied in the streets, dries up within a few days, without emitting the least unpleasant odour, and will remain thus preserved till its skeleton is either crumbled to dust by the gradual effect of the dry atmosphere, or is more summarily pulverized by the wheels of some passing vehicle. We have known even dead horses dry up in this manner in a very few days.

The clearness and invigorating influence of the air will not be wondered at, when we mention that westerly and north-westerly winds are prevalent—winds that come to us thoroughly purified by their long travel over the bosom of the Pacific.

During the summer afternoons the atmosphere is often heavily charged with moisture; it never rains, but fogs and cool winds prevail on the bay at such times; they disappear, however, very quickly, leaving the air all the clearer.

Of all the sights that delight the human eye, a sunset on the

shores of California is the most magnificent. We only wish that we were fully capable of giving a description of such a spectacle, with all its gorgeous lights and colours, as they are thrown and change over the heaven, the waters, and the earth, as vividly as it is depicted in our imagination. Bayard Taylor, in his description of California, says:—

"I have seen the dazzling sunsets of the Mediterranean flush the beauty of its shores, and the mellow skies which Claude used to contemplate from the Pincian Hill; but, lovely as they are in my memory, they seem cold and pale when I think of the splendour of such a scene on the Bay of San Francisco."

An early riser will find California a paradise, and can contemplate the glorious spectacle of a sunrise whilst inhaling, or rather *drinking in*, an air the freshness, mellowness, and invigorating fragrance of which are positively intoxicating.

The brilliancy of a moonlight night is so great, that common print can be easily read, and objects at a great distance can be discerned with little difficulty. We have ourselves, from the top of a hill, seen distinctly the houses of a town some eight miles distant.

The scenery of the country is of the most varied description.

The immediate neighbourhood of San Francisco has rather a cheerless aspect, it is true, as the town is built on a narrow peninsula, some eight miles wide, between the ocean and the bay, and the sand-hills formed by the winds bear but very little vegetation; and this is the case with the sea-coast in general.

In the interior the case is different. There flourishes a vast and magnificent vegetation—not, however, of the luxuriant and overgrowing kind commonly met with in tropical regions; on the contrary, the country in general consists of fine, open, fruitful valleys, dotted here and there with clusters of a few large trees, something like an English park; or of mountainous regions more or less covered with forest vegetation, and partly evergreen.

Valleys of from 20,000 to 300,000 acres are mostly met with in the counties of Santa Clara, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Bernadino, and Tulare, in the south; and northward in the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Yolo, and Colusi, &c.; whilst the larger valleys and plains lie for the most part on the Sacramento, American, and San Joaquin rivers.

Nothing in the shape of valleys can exceed in beauty those of San José, Santa Clara, Napa, Sonoma, and some others. A most beautiful grass and thickly-standing wild oats cover the ground, and furnish excellent pasture; and the beauty of the landscape is heightened by here and there fine live oaks, dark cypresses, well shaped chestnuts, and other trees, either standing proudly alone, or forming pretty groups; while the bubbling of some crystal stream completes the idyllish picture.

Towards the mountains and elevations surrounding these valleys the above-mentioned tree scenery is occasionally varied by the stately figure of a species of gigantic fir, which either—affecting isolation—rears its proud head solus towards heaven, or—condescending to associate with its fellows—is seen in clusters of perhaps ten or a dozen; while the dark hues of their blackish-green foliage form a striking contrast to the brilliant blue sky and the numerous other shades of green of the various trees around, overhung, moreover—as these frequently are—with beards of silver-grey moss.

Higher up the mountains and hills the trees stand closer, especially round the glen whence issues some mountain streamlet; and thicken into impervious forests in the ravines and gulches still more elevated; while, in some cases, the dense masses climb even the summit itself, and clothe the whole mountain in one robe of many-shaded verdure. Other hills, again, have a different vegetation, being covered with thicket or underwood, occasionally with manzanitos trees, with here and there a tall tree, or a clump of trees, rising out of it, and towering above it.

The peculiar charm of this scenery is felt more especially in spring. In travelling along the road one is led to speculate in one's own mind, on approaching one of these clusters of trees or groups of clusters, whether the same do not for the moment screen from sight some manorial residence, so park-like and regular is the scenery.

The wild flowers, covering as they do, during spring, the valleys and hills in California, in endless variety of sizes, forms, and colours, enrapture the botanist. The most delicate and rarest flowers, cultivated in Europe as hot-house or garden plants, are here found in the greatest variety, and in a profusion peculiarly characteristic of the

generosity of nature; and nothing can equal the beauty of the "carpet of flowers," as the poets say, spread over the fertile plains of California. No country in the world can present so magnificent a show of wild flowers.

During the summer months some of the creeks dry up, and then the long grass begins to turn yellow, and the crops of wild oats to become ripe, imparting to the whole landscape a beautiful tinge of gold, except where the oats are less abundant, and there it assumes a parched appearance. And still, in spite of the heat and want of rain, there generally springs up a fine young grass, sheltered and shaded by the long old grass and oat-straw.

The valley of the Sacramento is decidedly one of the most fertile spots on the surface of the earth; it is very large, and the mountains are a great distance off. The valley is subject to inundations from the river, which, though perhaps sometimes dangerous and disagreeable, are yet one of the sources of its great fertility. Without doubt it will prove eventually the best ground for the cultivation of rice by our Chinese population.

The Mendozino, Humboldt, and other counties, possess enormous forests, furnishing to numerous saw-mills timber of great dimensions.

All our mining counties partake, more or less, of the character above described, although rocks, small valleys, and innumerable gulches and ravines are more prevalent in the neighbourhood of the Sierra Nevada and its branches.

But the most extraordinary of all vegetable phenomena, and some of Nature's greatest wonders, are to be found in the county of Calaveras. Here grows the *Wellingtonia gigantea*, or the mammoth vegetable, unrivalled in size, and most beautiful in its growth, throwing up its proud stem 250, 350, and even 450 feet—a stem from 30 to 45 feet in diameter. The sight of one of these giants among trees makes man feel and reflect how small and insignificant he is.*

* The following appeared in the *Californian Farmer* of September 11th, 1857, and we are sorry we are not able to wait for the therein promised description, dimensions, &c.:—

In Mariposa county is situated the far-famed Yohamite Valley. This valley is most fertile in its nature, is evergreen, ornamented with immense trees, and watered by a beautiful, clear stream. It is surrounded by rocks, some of which rise perpendicularly to a height of upwards of 3,000 feet. At one extremity the river Merced enters the valley over the rocks, precipitating itself 3,100 feet into the depths below. This is accomplished by one great plunge of 2,100 feet, and two other minor ones of respectively 600 and 400 feet. It is by far the most magnificent waterfall in the world, rolling a volume of water equal, in the rains, to the Thames at Richmond, and tumbling it, without more ado, over a precipice of the immense height above described.

But the imagination alone can form but a very feeble picture of these extraordinary scenes, however warm, vivid, and truthful may be the description. Only by seeing them can one form anything like an adequate idea of these grand sights. Nature seems really to have reserved this tract of country for a display of her sublimest and most astounding works; for there is nothing in the Alps of Switzerland, nothing in old Niagara, or in other known and admired scenery, of either the old or the new world, that can be compared for an instant in grandeur and majesty to the immense granite rocks of the Yohamite Valley, its monster waterfall of 3,100 feet, or the wonderful, giant-like character of the vegetation. The whole forms a grand, imposing, and awe-inspiring picture of the creative

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"GREAT DISCOVERY.—Having been absent from our editorial post for some two weeks, in company with our excellent friend Rambler, who gave the glowing description of the Yosemite Valley in our journal the last season, and which was copied throughout the Eastern States, we have, together with him and some other friends, visited the entire Yosemite Valley, its falls and mountains. We have also visited the mountains some twenty-five miles around, that we might see the Great Tree, which Rambler said excelled the Mammoth Tree of Calaveras.

"In this visit we have been fortunate to be connected with an exploring party, who have travelled over mountains previously unexplored and uninvestigated, and in searching and finding the Great Tree of Rambler's, we have found and examined a forest of Giant Trees, that far exceed the Mammoth Tree of Calaveras. We shall, in our next issue, give to our readers the full history, the number of trees, the measurement, heights, and circumference, and the interesting facts connected with them, together with the names of the exploring party."

THE YO-HAMITE VALLEY
Height of perpendicular rocks from 3 to 4000 feet.

power of the Almighty, such as does not exist elsewhere on the earth's surface.

The fertility of the soil and climate of California, both as to the size and quality of the varied products, is most surprising, and, we believe, altogether unequalled.

Leaving to others the task of eulogizing the beauty and excellence of its trees and flowers, we will proceed to speak more particularly and somewhat at length, on the agricultural and horticultural produce of the country—of the fruits and the crops.

Wheat, barley, oats, rye, rice, tobacco, cotton, flax, hemp, and such like, yield most abundant crops, and that with comparatively very little labour; while in the article of fruit are cultivated—apples, pears, peaches, strawberries, and quinces; and, in the southern parts of the state, figs, dates, olives, pomegranates, almonds, the sugar-cane, and bananas. The potatoes, sweet-potatoes, turnips, carrots, pumpkins, melons, &c., attain a size which, if mentioned, would raise a smile of incredulity on the countenance of the European.

We think we cannot do better than introduce here, in confirmation of our statements, passages from the speech of the president of the State Agricultural Fair, delivered on the evening of the 7th of October, 1856, at San José:—

"It would be a source of pride and gratification, citizens of California, that our lot has been cast in a State whose resources are so vast and various, and so happily represented in these halls. Never before was there a commonwealth only six years old (for that is the age of our agricultural life), that could furnish such an exhibition. What, then, is to be our future? We can ask no better pledge than what is here before us. We have a State large enough to include within its ample boundaries all New England, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland; but, more than this, its golden depth is an important item of its measurement. Our timbered lands are equal in extent, and more than equal, to the States of Maine and New Hampshire. Our gold region is equal to the States of Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Our agricultural and grazing surface are equal to the States of New York, New Jersey, and Maryland. Having such a vast extent of productive territory, and none is more productive in the world, what must be the future extent of its population? How vast the increase must be, is further evident in the fact that, while it is now the second State in territorial extent, it is yet only the twenty-eighth in population. We have also a smaller amount of improved lands than any other State in the Union, and in that view, as much greater prospect of increase. We can even ask the world to come, and take every man a farm. And by the time we get a road well opened across the continent, we shall have them coming.

"As regards the rate of production per acre, our soil surpasses that of any

other in the world. Small as the amount is of our improved lands, we already raise the breadstuffs to feed our population, and to export a large surplus. We excel every other of the States in the production of barley. The amount raised this year is worth more, at present prices, than the entire crop of all the other States in 1850. We are also the first State in the Union in the production of the grape. Wine is destined, ere long, to be one of our staple articles of export. Our native wine already bears a higher price in our market than the imported article. The grape, in all its varieties, is better adapted to our soil and climate than to any other, as the average yield of the vineyards already employed in wine-making sufficiently show. Hence it is well nigh certain that wine will be produced here in a few years in such abundance as more than to supply our market.

"California is at this time, also, the ninth State in the quantity of wheat she produces, and as early as 1853 was the tenth in amount raised of potatoes. We raise a very large amount of stock, and no State has greater natural advantages for the cheap and easy production of stock. I see, also, in the fact that large sums are beginning to be expended by some of our most enterprising citizens for the introduction of the improved breeds, a token that we shall shortly take that precedence to which our soil and climate entitle us.

"It is ascertained, beyond dispute, that there is no soil or climate in the United States that will produce the fruits in as great abundance and variety.

"Our markets are as abundantly supplied with all the choice varieties of fruits, as the most favoured sections of the Atlantic States. We particularly excel in three staple fruits—the peach, the pear, and the apple. We naturally excel in fruits that are more nearly tropical, and within a few years we shall actually produce more olives, figs, raisins, oranges, lemons, prunes, dates, and nuts, than the present import of these articles in the United States—amounting to over three million dollars per annum.

"In the successful cultivation of tobacco, cotton, rice, and sugar, our experiments thus far have been limited. But, such as they are, they leave no room to doubt that, in a short time, we shall be able to supply our own demand, besides furnishing a surplus for export.

"With a climate kindred to that of Asia Minor, Greece, Italy, Southern France and Spain, comparatively free from dampness, and entirely free from thunderstorms (which are the great enemy of the silkworm), there is no reason why we should not become a great silk-producing community.

"The cork tree, the bark of which forms a considerable item of our imports, can also be raised here as well as in Spain.

"Add now to all this the advantage of our commercial position; overlooking the greatest ocean of the world, and holding the terminus, in due time, of the greatest continental highway of commerce in the world; having a climate healthy and vigorous beyond almost any other on the globe; possessing endless varieties of mineral products—sandstone, marble, asphaltum, coal, iron, alum, salt, sulphur, quicksilver, copper, lead, silver, and gold: furnishing thus materials for every sort of labour, and all the elements necessary to employ the different varieties of skill and production. Bring all these into view, and how mighty the population this one State is able to support, and is destined ere long to see!"

We will now proceed to gratify the lovers of the marvellous by a short statement of facts, illustrative of extraordinary garden produce; and we take the liberty of warning our readers beforehand against running away with the idea that the immense size attained by some of our vegetables, fruit, &c., is unnatural, and the quality in con-

sequence inferior: such is not the case, the extraordinary size being simply the natural effect of the soil and climate.

Most of the following products of California were exhibited at the State Agricultural Fair, held at Sacramento, 1855:—

"A beet, grown by Colonel Hall, of Sacramento City, weighing 73 lbs.

"A carrot, weighing 10 lbs., measuring 1 foot 8 inches in circumference, and 3 feet 3 inches in length. There were fifty in the same bed, of equal size. The seeds were sown on June 25th, and the carrots dug September 20th.

"A tomato, 17 inches in circumference.

"A squash, weighing 141 lbs.

"An onion, weighing 2 lbs. 15 ozs., and measuring 22 inches in circumference.

"A cornstalk, 21 feet 9 inches in height.

"Water melons (from near Nevada)—twenty-seven gave an aggregate of 550 lbs.

"A sweet potato, from San José, weighing 11 lbs. 2 ozs., and one 21 lbs.

"An Irish potato, from Bodega, weighing 7¼ lbs.

"A bunch of potatoes (of the Oregon red variety), from a single eye, weighing 10 lbs., grown at the forks of Turnback Creek, near Sonora.

"Grapes—several bunches, weighing over 4 lbs. each. We have seen one bunch weighing 14 lbs.

"A citron lemon, 16½ by 18¾ inches in circumference, weighing 2 lbs. 14 ozs., from Los Angeles.

"Fig tree—a slip 1 foot in length and ⅝ of an inch in thickness was planted April 1st, and in the month of September following was 11 feet 6 inches high, and 9¼ inches in circumference at the base, with a corresponding growth of branches.

"Peach trees, in twenty-eight months from the planting of the seed, bore fruit over 9 inches in cirumference, and weighing from 7 to 8½ ounces. There were thirty-four of these large peaches on one tree.

"An apple, measuring 15⅓ inches each way, and weighing 23 ounces, grown in the Yam Hill Orchard."

The following remarks occur in the report of the visiting committee of the above society, at the annual fair in 1856:—

"At Mr. Wolfskill's we saw some remarkable fig trees, which, although planted but four years, measured nearly two feet in circumference.

"We have seen a locust tree, planted from seed three years ago, and measuring at present twenty-five inches in circumference.

"At the residence of Thomas Fallon, Esq., at San José, we saw pear trees grafted with the Bartlett variety in February, 1855, having fruit of remarkable size and quality, some of the pears measuring from thirteen to fourteen inches in circumference. The fruit of four old pear trees, grafted with the Bartlett variety eighteen months ago, has been sold this season for 160 dollars.

"At San Lorenzo we saw two apples growing upon grafts inserted last winter, and only a few inches from the ground.

"Mr. Wolfskill has raised eight onions, weighing together over 25 lbs.; some of them were upwards of eight inches in diameter, and one weighed 4 lbs. 2 oz.

"Twelve pumpkins grown in Los Angeles weighed more than 1,500 lbs.

"We picked, without much choosing, from one of the trees, a quince measuring 14¼ inches one way, and 13¼ the other.

"Mr. Cardwell raised, last year, a sweet potato, weighing upwards of 23 lbs.

"One of the still young pumpkins at Mr. Ruebottom's measured 6 feet 11 inches round the largest circumference, and 5 feet 10 inches the other way.

"At Mr. Smith's we saw a beet measuring 3 feet 6 inches in circumference,

but as it was yet a young one, we decided upon leaving it in the ground to complete its growth.

"A part of Q Ranch is worked by Major Barbour. His tract includes the garden, orchard, and vineyard. In the orchard are 1,500 peach trees, and 200 apple trees. The vineyard covers two acres, and the melon patch two acres. Melons sell, through the season, from July 4th to November, at seventy-five cents to one dollar each. To those who have never seen melons grow, it will seem simply absurd to say that confident hopes are entertained of realizing from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars from this patch of two acres, the present year. But we were assured that *two and three hundred dollars'* worth of melons per day were sold during the first week after the 4th of July.

"On the same ranch, Colonel Alexander Bolion cultivates forty acres of vegetables, *from seven acres* of which he, last year, realized *two thousand five hundred dollars*. Here we saw about fifty seedling peach trees of several fine varieties.

"Mr. Care has 40 apple trees, the fruit of which was sold this season for 750 dollars.

"Visited the Mission of San Fernando, twenty-two miles north of Los Angeles, now in possession of Don Andres Pico, whose generous hospitality made our short stay a very agreeable one. There are two gardens attached to this mission, both walled in with a high adobé wall. The south one, twenty-seven years old, contained twenty-three acres; the north one, forty-five years old, thirty-one acres. The two inclosures together contain 40,000 vines, 100 heavily laden pomegranate trees, 300 pear, 300 peach, 10 apricot, 9 orange trees nineteen years old, 2 black walnut, 5 cherry, and 22 fig trees. But the place is chiefly remarkable for its beautiful grove of 400 large olive trees. Two bottles of the oil were presented to be burned at the exhibition. Here we also saw seven palm trees, one of them twenty-seven years old.

"Messrs. McMurtie have already been offered 10,000 dollars for 100 acres of land planted with potatoes.

"Three miles above Marysville is the extensive nursery of G. G. Briggs, Esq., in which are growing nearly 200,000 peach trees, 16,000 plum, 5,000 cherry, 15,000 pear, 5,000 apple, 20,000 nectarine and apricot. The thriving condition of the trees is the best proof that both the soil and climate of this locality are all that can be desired for the production of these fruits.

"Mr. Stockton has a tree of California pears which produced this season 250 dollars.

"Here we saw a beautiful grove of thirty-two large orange trees bearing, about eighteen years old, twenty-five feet high. Yield per tree, 1,000 to 1,500. Last year received 120 dollars for the oranges sold from one tree, and the net profit from seven trees was over 700 dollars."

The committee of the same year, in their report for awarding premiums on fruits, &c., exhibited, say:—

"No. 4.—Two mammoth pumpkins, raised from Oregon seed in Sacramento Valley. They were of immense size, weighing 240 and 210 pounds. These pumpkins make a valuable growth for stock purposes.

"No. 12.—The weight of this pear was two pounds and twelve ounces, avoirdupois. Since the above was exhibited, another pear has been gathered from the same tree, weighing *three pounds and seven ounces*. Such specimens will give the pomologists of our sister States and Europe a positive assurance of the capabilities of our State, and of our rapid progress in the science.

"No. 13.—One Duchesse d'Angoulême, A. A. Vanguelder, Coloma, fifteen by fifteen inches, weighing two pounds, grown on a tree only one inch and a half in diameter at the base.

"No. 18.—One Duchesse d'Angoulême, on dwarf worked on quince *cutting*, and the pear mature before the tree was fifteen months old.

"Large Apples.—Of the *Gloria Mundi* there were nine specimens, one of which was so enormously large that your committee feel almost hesitant about giving its weight and measurement. It was seventeen inches in circumference each way, and weighed two pounds three and a half ounces. It was of the most perfect form, and in all respects the most noble specimen of an apple we have ever seen."

The next is an account of the progress of a farm where fruit-growing was commenced in 1853, the report dating 1856, three years after. This account will be the more interesting to fruit growers when we mention that, during this short time, the gross receipts of the produce of the same have exceeded 200,000 dollars.

Messrs. S. & W. N. Thompson make the following report of their farm, and the committee, for being thus aided in their labours, are under obligations to the proprietors.

"The farm contains 600 acres, inclosed with a sawed-rail fence. The first fruit trees, about 2,000, were imported and planted as standards in orchard in January and February, 1853, upon soil then broken up for the first time. At the same time we imported a quantity of seeds and pits, which we planted in the nursery, and the following season commenced budding and grafting the seedling stocks, from the stock imported, which consisted of the best well-approved varieties cultivated in the Eastern States. We have also imported, and are still importing, additional varieties each year—as some are much improved by the change to this soil, while others are not benefited. We have now of standard fruit-bearing trees planted in orchard, 4,000 apple, 10,000 peach, 1,000 pear, 1,000 plum, besides nectarine, apricot, cherry, quince, fig, olive, pomegranate, gooseberry, currant, raspberry, &c.—in all 18,000 trees, comprising 250 varieties of these fruits. A vineyard of 8,000 vines, comprising thirty varieties of native and foreign grapes.

"Of nut-bearing trees planted in orchard and avenues—consisting of English white and black walnut, shellbark hickory, almond, and chestnut—1,600 trees. About four miles in length of avenues and belts planted through and round the orchards and vineyards for the purpose of breaking the force of the prevailing winds that blow from the bay during the summer season—consisting of black locust, Chilian and Australian acacias, sugar and silver maple, elm, magnolia, and weeping willow—3,500 trees. The whole stock of trees planted as standards is 31,000, and cover 140 acres. With the exception of the inconsiderable portion of these trees imported as working stock, *the orchard is the product of the farm.*

"Besides the orchard, we have 50,000 trees and vines in nursery now ready for market.

"The product sold from the nursery and orchard since the 1st of January, of this year, has been 15,000 trees, 3,100 baskets of peaches containing 90,000 pounds, and a small quantity of apples, grapes, gooseberries, &c. Of the 3,100 baskets of peaches sold, about 2,000 were produced from 450 trees planted in 1853, and the balance, 1,100 baskets, from 5,600 trees, from pits, planted in 1853, the stock budded that year, and transplanted in orchard in February, 1855.

"*The trees both in nursery and orchard are grown without irrigation*, and, notwithstanding the heavy crop of peaches grown this year, the trees have

made an immense growth. The orchard, which last year looked from a distance like rows of half-grown corn, is now a forest in which a man may hide himself. Our plan is to plough deep, dig wide and deep holes for planting, and work the ground from February until July, allowing no grass or weeds to grow amongst the trees. The apples and peaches are planted in alternate rows, on the quincunx plan. All the experiments we have tried with the different kinds of trees and fruits, so far as they have produced, are eminently satisfactory. Peaches have proved to be of a quality, size, and flavour equal to any found in the most favoured country. Apples in every respect have far exceeded our anticipations, for, partially taking up the negative opinion which has prevailed, viz., that we never could raise a good apple in California, we looked forward to the time of their bearing with the utmost solicitude. We can now say we are satisfied and delighted with the result. We have produced apples this year of beauty and flavour unsurpassed, even in the far-famed State of New York; while the nectarine, apricot, and gooseberry, have so improved by their removal to California soil, as scarcely to be recognized as the same fruit. With foreign grapes, too, we are much gratified. We have produced in the open air the grape from Malaga and the South of France, the size, beauty, and flavour of which would be hard to excel in their native countries.

"We are in a favoured country for fruit growing. We grow the pomegranate, olive, and fig side by side with the apple, pear, and quince; the grape of Malaga with the hardy Isabella, Diana, and Catawba; the almond and olive with the black walnut and shellbark; the magnolia with the sugar maple and elm; the natives of the far north and the far south all grow side by side, and all flourish well."

The *Alta California*, of the 19th September, 1857, speaking of the exhibition, contains the following items:—

"By far the most wonderful vegetable productions, which have ever fallen under our notice, are three mammoth squashes, which exhibit their obese figures on a table adjoining that on which lie most of the fruit on exhibition. These all grew on a single vine in Alameda, and together with one other not picked, weigh *eight hundred* pounds. The largest of the family weighs no less than two hundred and thirty-nine pounds, and measures eleven feet in circumference. In the valley formed by these mountain monsters are a cabbage weighing seventy-two pounds, and a beet, which weighs eighty-five pounds. It is intended to forward these leviathans to the Agricultural Fair.

"Among the fruits, those by Mr. H. L. Sandford, of Shell Mound, near San Antonio, deserve especial mention. He has nine species of pears, seven of apples, five of strawberries, and one of peach, all produced on trees set out in the spring of 1856.

"The tables laden with fruit form a most attractive feature. The apples, peaches, grapes, and pears are splendid. There is one apple, over five inches in diameter, and five peaches over three and a quarter inches through; but the merit of these fruits consists rather in their delicate fulness and beauty of colour, than in their size.

"The pomological collections have been reinforced, since our last notice, by some mammoth samples of pears and apples. The Shell Mound nurseries in Alameda furnish one measuring sixteen inches in circumference, and weighing twenty-six ounces.

"From the grounds of C. T. Ryland, Esq., of San José, are to be seen five apples, each weighing nineteen and three-fourths ounces.

"Luscious branches of the great white grape, from the Alameda gardens of I. Hutchinson, call forth rapturous exclamations from the spectator. These certainly surpass, in size and beauty, any ever exhibited in this State.

"Thomas Fallon, of San José, has a number of Duchesse d'Angoulême pears, of incredible dimensions, and weighing not less than twenty-eight ounces apiece.

"In addition to these, Mr. Macondray, President of the Society, has, in the magnificent specimens of fruit to be found on this table, shown what our rich soil, with careful culture, is capable of producing.

"Mr. Osborn, of Napa; Mr. Beach, of Marysville; Mr. Wheeler, of Sacramento, bring pomological offerings from the interior—thus exhibiting the fact that the capacity of our soil to produce fruit is by no means confined to a single locality.

"The fruit on this table can safely challenge the world, in size, beauty, and flavour.

"One of the most wonderful evidences of the fecundity of the soil of this State, is seen in the sample of Mexican wheat, on exhibition by Lohse Brothers. The crop, of which this is but a fair specimen, has yielded no less than *sixty-seven* bushels to the acre."

The *Californian Farmer* has the following:—

"Splendid Fruits.—We received from Jas. Henderson, Esq., Pomona Gardens, at the Mission Dolores, a box of the most superb strawberries we have ever seen. We learn from Mr. H. that they were gathered from vines planted last December. This fruit was generally coxcomb shape, of extraordinary size, fully ripe, and delicious. The berries measured from four and a half to six and a quarter inches in circumference.

"We received, some days since, a collection of very large gooseberries; they were of very superior size and quality. We believe they came from the Oakland side. The fruits were as large as hen's eggs."

The same journal, of the 28th August, contains this:—

"Fruit Crop.—The Messrs. Smith, proprietors of the celebrated garden on the American river that bears their name, sold last year peaches to the amount of 49,000 dollars. The croakers then said, 'The fruit business is overdone in California: next year nothing will be made by raising fruit.' But the experience of this year shows an entirely different result. The Messrs. Smith have already sold between 50,000 and 70,000 dollars worth, and there are still plenty on the trees."

The show of vegetables in the markets of San Francisco are well worthy of inspection, and astonish the "foreigners" not a little.

There are piles of squashes, melons, cucumbers, turnips, carrots, &c., &c., with all that is *recherché*, such as fine mushrooms, artichokes, egg-plants (of enormous size), together with beautiful salads, celery, &c. Our salad heads are as big as ordinary cabbages in the old countries, and have but little "green;" the heart, or "white," being very large, and of the greatest fineness and mellowness.

The same applies to cabbages. The author's wife purchased a cabbage from a large pile, without any particular selection. We

found it to weigh 32 lbs. Now, from this enormous size, our friends might suppose that the cabbage was overgrown and coarse; but no such thing. The outer leaves had been taken off before sending it to market, and the solid firm head weighed, as stated, 32 lbs. The then enclosing leaves were already white, and had but little green at the top, and when two or three layers had been pulled off, the whole head remaining was as white as snow, and after a part was boiled, it was found to be of the utmost fineness and delicacy of flavour. It is needless to say that the cabbage in question lasted us for more than a week.

If nature produces these wonderful results without efforts on our part, what will the size of our vegetables be as soon as we gain time to assist their growth with artificial means?

At the Agricultural Exhibition itself were to be seen apples and pears weighing from 2 to 3½ lbs. each, and measuring from 18 to 24 inches in circumference. There were also two peaches, weighing respectively 1 lb. 1¼ ozs. and 1 lb. ¼ oz.; circumference, 10¾ inches and 10 inches.

Pumpkins of 200 lbs. and 250 lbs. are common in the state; and last year a squash was shown in San Francisco weighing nearly 400 lbs.

We ourselves have seen two potatoes, weighing together 13 lbs.; one 6¼ lbs., and the other 6¾ lbs. These potatoes, when boiled, turned out perfectly sound and good all through, being "mealy" to the centre.

All vegetables—peas, cabbages, carrots, salad, &c., &c., grow all the year round, and are to be found in the market, winter and summer, always fresh and young.

The above are a few of the countless instances of the wonderful productiveness of the soil and climate, for to their *combined* effects must this enormous yield in quantity and size be attributed.

As a *grain-producing* country, California is unequalled, although but eleven years have elapsed since its occupation by the United States, and nine since the discovery of gold. In the first years, too, everybody was engaged either in business or at the gold-diggings,

THE "MOTHER OF THE FOREST"

The bark removed up to the height of 116 feet is on exhibition at the Crystal Palace.

and agriculture was comparatively unthought of and uncared for. Rapid, however, have been the strides made within the last few years, and richly has the enterprising farmer been rewarded. In an almost incredibly short time, from being a *corn-importing* country, California became a *corn-exporting* one. In 1855, we ourselves shipped the first cargo of wheat that ever crossed the equator twice. It was consigned to England; and at the Manchester and Liverpool markets was declared to be the best ever imported there, and brought the highest price of the season, leaving a clear profit of 80 per cent. on the shipment.

It is nothing unusual in California to see a wheat-field bear 60 bushels to the acre, and there are instances of 100 and 120; and the average run of good and bad yields is estimated at from 25 to 35 bushels, which is double and treble the yield in Europe and elsewhere.

The average yield, as reported by surveyors, amounts to about 26 bushels, but these averages are compiled in a manner somewhat defective, as the number of acres reported as cultivated is generally greater than is actually the case. We therefore state 25 to 35 bushels as the averages of good land; but in our calculations, as will be seen, we take only 25 bushels to the acre, in order to be entirely safe against any charge of exaggeration; but 25 bushels is much below the usual yield.

These extraordinary results are obtained with comparatively little labour. The soil requires no uprooting of trees or heavy ploughing; and one man can easily cultivate from twenty to twenty-five acres.

During the rains in spring the wheat shoots up finely, is then nourished by refreshing dews in the early summer, and quickly and surely ripened in the regular dry season. No rains, or thunder, or hailstorms, ever interfere with the work of harvesting. The farmer is always sure of getting in his crop.

Neither barns nor drying ovens are required. The corn is dried and threshed in the open air, and then stored in sacks under the roof of God's heaven, without fear of damage, until brought to market.

Barley is of excellent quality, and the yield enormous. Oats are

very fine, and are exported largely. Wild oats often give an average crop of fair oats of some 10 to 15 bushels per acre.

The annexed is taken from a work on California by the Rev. Walter Colton, who visited the old missions of the state, and received the following information from the mayordomos:—

"Mission of San Jose.—It is stated, in the archives of this mission, that the mayordomo gathered 8,600 bushels of wheat from eighty bushels sown; and the following year, from the grain which fell at the time of the first harvest, 5,200 bushels! The priest told me that Julius Cæsar deposited in the temple of Ceres 362 kernels of wheat, as the largest yield of any one kernel in the Roman empire, and that he had gathered and counted from one kernel sown at this mission 365—beating Rome in three kernels!

"Mission of San Luis Obispo.—The mayordomo of this mission, in 1827, scattered on the ground, without having first ploughed it, 120 bushels of wheat, and then scratched it in with things called harrows, and harvested from the same over 7,000 bushels.

Mission of Solidad.—In 1819 the mayordomo of this mission gathered 3,400 bushels of wheat from 38 bushels sown."

Assuming that no less than one bushel was sown to one acre, this would give yields of from 90 to 110 bushels per acre.

Bayard Taylor, in his work, 1850, says:—

"Capt. Fisher informed me, however, that there is no such wheat country in the world. Even with the imperfect ploughing of the natives, which does little more than scratch up the surface of the ground, it produces a hundredfold. Not only this, but without further cultivation, a large crop springs up on the soil the second, and sometimes even the third year. Capt. Fisher knew of a ranchero who sowed twenty fanegas of wheat, from which he harvested 1,020 fanegas. The second year he gathered from the same ground 800 fanegas, and the third year, 600.* The unvarying dryness of the climate, after the rains have ceased, preserves grain of all kinds from rot, and, perhaps from the same circumstance, the Hessian fly is unknown. The mountain sides, to a considerable extent, are capable of yielding fine crops of wheat, barley, and rye, and the very summits and ravines, on which the wild oats grow so abundantly, will of course give a richer return when they have been traversed by the plough."

The correctness of these facts cannot be doubted; but we will merely quote these as "extraordinary" yields.

We subjoin a few extracts from the committee's report of 1856:—

"The Monte is a rich tract of meadow land, never requiring irrigation, some six or eight miles long by three or four broad. Corn† is here the chief product, and it is exceedingly prolific. The cultivators of the soil estimate their yield at from 80 to 120 bushels to the acre. The stalk grows from 12 to 17 feet high; the first ear, perhaps, being 11 feet high; from two to four ears on the stalk, and often five or six stalks to the hill."

"Of the 50 acres, 35 are in corn, a crop which nowhere in the Monte is

* That is, three crops from the same sowing. † That is, *Indian corn.*

below par. Many crops average 80 bushels to the acre, and we were repeatedly assured that as high as 120 bushels to the acre had been raised. There are from 20,000 to 30,000 bushels raised on the Monte this year."

"On this ranch, besides barley and wheat, there are 213 acres of oats, sown the last of March, yielding 75 bushels to the acre. Threshed, in less than two days, 1,300 bushels with one machine. Through the better part of the field the heads would yield 300 grains each."

"A short distance from Captain Aram's, near Alviso, we saw a field of fifty acres of volunteer barley. This was the *fifth* crop from one single sowing, and the yield this year has been 45 bushels to the acre."

"The committee were interested in viewing a wheat-field that has been cultivated by Mr. Yount, for the last eighteen years in wheat, and the yield of which will this year be at least 35 bushels to the acre."

"The ranch of Mr. James Martin comprises 320 acres. Besides cutting 200 tons of hay, harvested the present year 5,000 bushels of grain, and gathered a large growth of vegetables."

"Visited the grounds of Don Manuel Requena, consisting of eight acres under excellent cultivation. Gross receipts from 2,000 to 3,000 dollars; expenses, 300 to 400 dollars."

"Visited the farm of General Hutchinson, where we saw one field of barley of 20 acres, averaging 75 bushels to the acre."

"At Mr. Wilson's we saw some Indian corn, the yield of which was estimated by the cultivators at from 80 to 120 bushels per acre."

The "Californian Farmer," of the 28th August this year, brings the following:—

"A Fine Yield of Wheat.—Mr. John Loring, P. M., at Loring's Ferry, planted this spring, in February, 530 lbs. of bald wheat, on about six acres, and has just harvested 9,784 lbs. of as full, plump wheat as need be raised. The wheat was ploughed in. Here is nearly 200 lbs. for each pound of grain. Mr. L. assured us that many shoots of grain yielded 617 large heads to each grain."

"Great Wheat.—Mr. Franklin Bell has shown us a fine sample of the seven-headed or Egyptian mummy wheat, raised by him this season on his farm near Santa Cruz. From one acre and one hundred and forty-six rods, sown with this wheat on the 12th day of March last, he has harvested 150 bushels, being about 77 bushels to the acre."

The county assessors, in the annual reports for 1856, gave the following estimates for the yield of wheat per acre for that year:—*

Counties.	Bushels.	Counties.	Bushels.
Tehama	38	Amador	35
Marin	33	Napa	31
Shasta	26	Butte	30
Contra Costa	34	Fresno	30
Humboldt	35	Klamath	30
Los Angeles	31	Sonoma	30

* The average yield of wheat in Great Britain, for the last ten years, is estimated at 14 bushels per acre. This average includes the large produce of some of the counties of England, where on account of the high cultivation and scientific manuring, the yield is sometimes as high as 30 bushels. The average yield in France is estimated at 9 bushels to the acre.

It might be supposed that the virgin soil of California was the cause of these large yields, and that the gradual exhaustion of the same would diminish them. The above example of a field having been successfully cultivated in wheat for eighteen consecutive years, of course without manuring, is a proof of the contrary. It must also be borne in mind, that such a thing as manuring is altogether unpractised by our farmers. We have no doubt that the extraordinary vegetation—from wheat to mammoth trees—is owing principally to the invigorating influence of the air and climate. Other countries may have a soil as good as that in California, still they can show neither such gigantic trees, nor such enormous yields of grain, &c.

The following facts have come under our own knowledge. A German farmer squatted on 160 acres of ground, some four years ago. Although he began without a halfpenny, he made in the first year by wheat-growing the handsome sum of 900 dollars, besides paying for his land at one dollar per acre, and for his implements, and buying horses, cows, and oxen, building his house, and completing his fence. For the last two years his field of 40 acres has yielded him 1,100 bushels of wheat per annum, selling for nett 1,400 dollars; his eggs, poultry, vegetables, fruit, &c., brought in 400 dollars. He estimates his increase in cattle at 800 dollars, and the increase in the value of his land at 320 dollars. Besides this, according to his own account, he had 2,500 dollars cash in the bank; and, in fact, considered he was worth 10,000 dollars, and all this the result of four years' judicious labour, single-handed and commencing totally without capital.

A field of 500 acres of wheat has produced in the last four years a total of 63,220 bushels, of the value of 108,000 dollars.

An Irish farmer began farming in 1853 with the small sum of 300 dollars, made in the mines in company with his nephew, a young lad. He first bought 200 acres of land, paying a deposit on the same; and the rest of the money was invested in a horse, a cow, and the necessary implements. The first year his fenced-in field yielded wheat to the value of 800 dollars, which enabled him to pay the remainder of the money for his land, besides repaying him for that expended on his stock. He now owns 600 acres of land, and

28 head of cattle, including 7 horses; together with lots of pigs, sheep, and poultry. His arable land is now 45 acres, besides which he has a large orchard and kitchen-garden. In a word, he has made himself a very snug, comfortable home, and something like 4,000 dollars to boot.

In 1852 an Englishman and two Germans came from the mines, with a united capital of 1,300 dollars. They bought 640 acres of land, and farmed it. Last year one of the Germans sold his share in the increased concern for 9,000 dollars.

Some years ago, an intimate acquaintance of ours, a German, in company with another as partner, bought a farm, and took to cultivating it and to raising cattle. He now owns upwards of 15,000 acres of land, and is worth pretty nearly 100,000 dollars. This person, too, began without a halfpenny.

We might mention innumerable other instances of a like prosperity; in fact, almost every farmer, whether beginning with a large or small capital, or with none at all, must become rich; he can scarcely avoid doing so. And what is more remarkable, this success is founded entirely on the produce of the land—even at rates ranging below those of other countries—and not on the positive increase in the value of the land, as is often the case in other states of the Union.

A farmer in California can work all the year round if he choose, and can easily arrange his daily work so as to have no times of over-exertion, and no times of forced idleness. Has he nothing that he can do in his field, he takes up his spade, and sets to work in his garden, cultivating his vegetables, one of the sources of his wealth; or his cattle want to be looked after; or there are improvements to be made in the house, or stables, or outhouses.

In the early days of California, the price of agricultural produce was ridiculously high, and even so much as a dollar has frequently been paid for a single potato or an onion, not to speak of the prices fruit commanded. But latterly the value of all such things has been regulated by the cost of production.

Wheat has been ruling at prices much below those of Europe; and the fact is, that our farmers, in spite of high rates of labour, are able to grow wheat with profit at one-half the cost at which it can

be produced in any other country. Sixty cents per bushel, or £1 per quarter, pays our farmer well. Potatoes are also sometimes very abundant, and have been sold at 25 cents (1s.) per 100 lbs.

Such accounts as the above must appear wonderful to European farmers; and they will be the more surprising, when we mention that the whole population of the state amounts to but about 300,000 souls, of which by far the larger part of the labouring class are engaged in mining pursuits, and that only some 20,000 to 25,000 are tillers of the soil.

Our farmers are rapidly becoming rich: with easy labour, large yields, and ready markets, it would only be astonishing if they did not.

And now a few words on *the wine-producing capabilities of California.*

The following appeared in the *Times* of the 12th November, 1857, on this subject:—

"Californian Wines.—The United States seem to comprise within themselves every variety of material and production of the globe, and, as our possessions are nearly one-eighth of the world, we are not surprised at the fact. But of all the states of the Union, California seems likely to be the most productive; her gold and other mines, her location on the Pacific coast, her hard-working population, and her natural advantages, all tend to make her the most important to the interests of the commonwealth. One of her last and newly-developed capabilities is that of vine-growing and wine-making. We have received a communication on this subject from Mr. Charles Kohler, a gentleman in the native wine business of that city, who generously accompanied his letter with samples of the native wine of his own production, which, for flavour and quality, seemed to us to be equal to many European brands, and only wanting in age. California is going to be a wine-growing country, and for the following reasons:—'In the first place,' says the *Californian Farmer*, 'our vineyards produce ordinarily nearly three times as much as those of Europe and the tramontane states. In France a first-rate crop from an acre is represented by 5,000 lbs. of grapes, and in many districts 2,000 lbs. is considered a fair crop; in Ohio 8,000 lbs. is a very large crop, and the ordinary amount is from 4,000 to 5,000 lbs.; but in California the ordinary crop is from 10,000 to 13,000 lbs., and 15,000 lbs. per acre is not uncommon. Secondly, our grapes never fail, as they frequently do in Europe and on the banks of the Ohio; nor do they ever produce so little as the largest crops which can be produced there. In other vine-growing countries they are exposed to the attacks of frost, hail, the oidium (or rot in the wood), and insects, either of which often causes an entire failure of the crop; but they are unknown here. The oidium is a disease which first appeared in France about four years ago, and has caused such devastations, that the wine crop since then has fallen off immensely, and about one-fourth of the vineyards have been rooted out, and cultivated in vegetables. In the third place, the vineyards of other countries require four or five times as much labour as those of California. Here the vine stands by itself; in almost every other vine-growing district the vines must be tied to a stake for support. Indeed, the European vineyards require constant looking after and labour, while those of California, when once planted, require very little care, other than a couple of ploughings in a year to keep them clear of weeds. Again, our land is cheap; vine-settings can be had for nothing. The growers

are never troubled by rain; the warmth of the climate aids fermentation; and, lastly, from one species of grape and from one vineyard the California wine-grower can make five or six entirely different kinds of wine, corresponding to most of the important kinds of European wines. Thus the Malaga grape, in the vineyard of Los Angeles, produces wine like the Sauterne, and claret, sherry, port, and champagne; while in Europe each district produces only one kind of wine, and could not be made to produce so many as come from the California grape. Besides, our wines are good, and promise to be equal in every respect to the best from Europe. The brandy, also made from the grape, is equal to the best Cognac, except only in those qualities given by age, which our brandy has not yet got. It is remarked that the California wines have a peculiar flavour, which is much praised by judges.' Doubtless there must be some disadvantages which time and patience will have to overcome, but when we consider that this year the total produce will be about 14,000,000 lbs. of grapes, and that from this quantity the city of Los Angeles alone will obtain 150,000 gallons of wine and 6,000 gallons of brandy, we cannot but think that California is destined to become the vineyard of the world."—*Philadelphia Evening Journal.*

The following are extracts from different sources:—

"Prolific Grape Vine.—The *Santa Barbara Gazette* states that a lady, Donna Marcelina, residing at Montecito, near Santa Barbara, has a grape vine which is computed by good judges to have on it in the neighbourhood of 5,000 bunches of grapes. Five hundred bunches have been taken from it, and it did not appear as though any had been removed. It covers a space of twenty yards square, and the trunk is nearly two feet in circumference, within a few feet from the ground. The vine is said to be thirty-five years old. This only shows to what size the vine attains in that section of the state, and in what quantities wine may be produced: if, with the partial cultivation this vine has heretofore received, it arrives to such magnitude, what might be expected if it received the culture and care generally given it in some parts of Europe?"—*Californian Farmer.*

"Mr. L—— planted cuttings of vines six or eight inches long, received per steamer from New York, in April, 1855, and in August of the same year—*four months and a half from the time of planting*—he gathered ripe grapes from some of them."—*E. S.*

"At the farm of Mr. Delmas we saw fine clusters of grapes growing upon grafts inserted only last winter."

"This day visited the vineyard and orchard of Mr. Wm. Wolfskill. His vineyard contains somewhat over 45,000 vines, covering forty-five acres. The vineyards throughout the country will average 1,000 vines to the acre, being planted generally six feet apart.

"The grapes from this vineyard are of the best quality, ripen early, and bring as good a price as any from this county, in the San Francisco market; to which place most of them are shipped. Grapes are sold in the vineyard to packers for three cents per pound; six cents more are expended in packing and transporting to market, so that they afford no profit, if sold in San Francisco on the wharf for less than nine cents per pound.

"Mr. Wolfskill makes an excellent article of pure red wine, more nearly allied to port than any other samples we have seen. He distilled from the grape last year sixty eighteen-gallon barrels of brandy, worth thirty dollars a barrel."

"Visited the vineyard and orchard of Sanscvain Brothers, formerly the celebrated vineyard of Don Louis Vigne. This is the largest vineyard in the State. It contains 60,000 vines, planted six feet apart. They think, after trial, that six feet is the best distance for this soil and this climate.

"Besides sending many thousand pounds of grapes to market, made, last last year, two thousand eighteen-gallon barrels of wine, and some little brandy. One thousand gallons of the wine was white, the remainder red. The white wine is made from the first straining-off, before the grape is fermented, while that which is pressed after fermentation is red wine. Sansevain Brothers have two good wine-cellars, one 124 by 15 feet; the other 90 by 16 feet. Their white wine is of a superior quality, and as it is the pure juice of the grape, and more palatable than the spurious wines of the shops, little excuse is left for those who will use wine, if they prefer the imported and filthy mixtures of the market to the comparatively harmless native wine. It is not our province, in this capacity, to say anything for or against the use even of this as a common beverage. Whether for good or for evil, we cannot doubt that California is destined soon to stand first among the wine-producing states, as it has already been first (for its population), among the wine-consuming states."

"The following is believed to be a correct summary of the number of vines in these two valleys, San Juan and San Diego. It was obtained by consulting those supposed to be most reliable, where it was found impossible to visit the ground, and question each individual proprietor:—

"San Gabriel	45,000	vines.
San Josè	40,000	„
Santa Anna	17,000	„
San Juan	7,000	„
Monte and neighbourhood	15,000	„
San Pedro	5,000	„
Los Angeles	800,000	„
San Bernardino	30,000	„
	959,000	„
Add San Fernando	40,000	„
And we have	999,000	vines;

Or, about one million of vines within sixty miles of Los Angeles."

"The want of an easy, cheap, and speedy communication with a market, which a railroad to San Francisco alone can supply, is the want which retards the full development of the almost unbounded resources of this truly wonderful country. When the fruit, corn, wine, oil, sugar, cotton, tobacco, &c., which the Southern counties are capable of producing, can find a paying market, there remains no obstacle to the realization of the most sanguine hopes and wishes of the agriculturists of Los Angeles."—*Reports, Agricultural Society.*

We may now ask in astonishment the following question:—*Why is it that, in spite of the glorious advantages held out by California to the European emigrant, he prefers burying himself in the wildernesses of Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, or some other of the western states of America?* In the dreary, swampy forests of these states, the poor emigrant and his family arrive, to settle at a distance of twenty or fifty miles from civilization. Here he pays one and a quarter dollar, two dollars, three, and up to ten, for his land, which then requires clearing—a work of toil and trouble, and requiring much valuable time; and then some years of great labour and exertion must elapse ere he can look forward to obtaining anything like a really remune-

rative crop. The snow covers the ground from October to April, and he is thus doomed to inactivity, as regards out-door occupations, for some four, five, or six months. His field—and here one man can cultivate but ten acres—yields but middling crops, and his cattle increase but slowly. In fact, after toiling as he never did in Europe, and in spite of all his carefulness and frugality, he finds that he certainly is not on the high road to fortune—that his pleasing day-dreams of speedy competence and perspective wealth are as far off being realized as ever; although on the whole he may be better off and freer than in his former home.

Nobody that has visited these states can deny, that the poor German emigrant especially, unless he unexpectedly fall in luck's way, does but eke out a miserable existence.

How different is the prospect which California holds out to the intending emigrant! No long and cheerless winter condemns him to a forced inactivity—no thunder, rain, or hail, interferes with the harvesting of his carefully and laboriously raised crops, and renders him downcast and desponding, and oft doubtful of ultimate success; for in the absence of anything like severe winter, the country enjoys a climate of almost perpetual spring; the heat being scarcely ever, in any part of the state, so intense as to render farming operations either unpleasant or impracticable. The agriculturist is thus enabled to pursue his avocations at all seasons, and his garden, susceptible of cultivation all the year round, yields a continuous supply of vegetables, either to be profitably disposed of at the market, or for home consumption: while under a cloudless sky he securely harvests his easily-raised and yet abundant crops of corn, &c. His cattle find excellent pasture at all times, thrive well, and increase rapidly. Such results are highly encouraging, and, therefore, our Californian farmer is never desponding or distrustful of the future: success renders him light of heart, and healthy in mind and body; while the almost certain prospect of a rapid acquirement of wealth, stimulates him to fresh exertion; and never were more magnificent results the reward of good management, energy, and perseverance in agricultural puruits; and as land is cheap and easily acquired, the farmer has very little difficulty in enlarging the sphere of his exertions, and

thus greatly increasing his profits. At the same time, let it be remembered, our settler is at no great distance from civilized society, or friendly and social intercourse; and all articles of necessity, and even of luxury, are easily obtainable. He hears all the news, and witnesses and shares in the progress all around him; and is enabled, in addition, to give his children a good education. The gold of the mines becomes his, and with it all that is purchaseable.

The climate of California is most conducive to health, and its beneficial effects are heightened by that evenness of temper, self-satisfaction, and freedom from gnawing cares and anxieties, which are undoubtedly the results of the surprising success attendant upon one's exertions. This state of bodily health acts favourably upon the mind, which latter, again, re-acts with advantage upon the body; and thus it is that, as the bills of mortality testify, the per-centage of deaths is so low—lower than in any other country in the world. The emigrant to the western states of North America is much less favourably situated in this respect. His constitution is often severely tried by exposure to excessive cold in winter, and extreme heat in summer, and to the chills and damps common in those countries, as also by over-exertion at one period of the year, and a total cessation of manual labour at another. While his temper, too, sometimes becomes soured by seeing many of his castles in the air thus rudely demolished, and by a want of success after much labour and privation, where, perhaps, he expected a life of ease and prosperity.

Were the different emigration societies, especially those in Germany, to take all these matters duly into consideration, they would, in advising the emigrant to avail himself of the many superior advantages held out to him by California, promote much more surely and satisfactorily the accomplishment of the end and aim of all emigration—the amelioration of the moral, social, and physical condition of the emigrant and his family.

We will elucidate and confirm our remarks, by making a comparison between the doings, progress, &c., of two families, one emigrating to Wisconsin, and the other to California; our suppositions being, of course, based upon facts.

"THE FATHER OF THE FOREST" FALLEN,
Measuring Forty feet in diameter at the base
Supposed height when standing over 500 feet.

We will suppose each family to consist of father and mother, two able-bodied sons, two grown-up daughters, and five smaller children. Each family shall be supposed to have already arrived in the country of its choice, with a sum of 2,000 dollars in hand.

The *Wisconsin* family settle some thirty miles from a town, and their outlay will be something as follows:—

	DOLLARS.
640 acres of Congress land at $1\frac{1}{4}$ dollars per acre . . .	800
Help in clearing the ground, hire of ox-teams, &c. .	100
Help in building block-house,* fencing-in, &c. . .	200
Price of a team of oxen, and for cows, pigs, poultry, &c.	350
Price of waggons, harness, agricultural implements, kitchen utensils, &c.	400
Provisions for the first year	150
Total	2,000

Their little all is thus expended, and they look with anxiety for the first year's returns. They get, perhaps, twenty acres in order, and sow it with corn, besides laying out a garden, and, perhaps, an orchard. This clearing and preparing the land is very hard work; and yet the first year's produce will go very little further than providing for the wants of the family, with perhaps a few bushels over, which will pay for other necessaries.

The second year things will look a little better; the arable land may produce 400 bushels, and five acres more may be added to it; the garden will begin to thrive; and altogether, with increased experience, more may be done. Besides this, the cows will most probably have calved, and the pigs and poultry have increased.

If, in the next year, they clear another five acres, they will then have quite as much as the three can manage. The garden ought now to be in good order, but the orchard is still producing nothing. After this, as there will be little or no increase in the produce of the field or garden, their hope of a still more prosperous state of things must evidently lie in the increase of their live stock and in the pro-

* A large block-house is not made here with *gratis help*, as is the fashion in some states, by neighbours.

duce of their orchard. This latter, however, will soon become pretty stationary, or, at least, will not augment. A great drawback experienced in disposing of one's produce in these wild countries is, the great scarcity of money. In dealing with neighbours, and even at the markets, the antiquated and unprofitable method of bartering is resorted to; for a real silver dollar is quite a *rara avis* in these parts.

During this long probationary period, what dreary winters to be supported—and often even accompanied with privation! If supplied with all the so-called necessaries of life, the settlers must think themselves well off, and be content to deny themselves all its luxuries, and even some of its conveniences.

This rude mode of living, and its necessary toil, may, indeed, induce habits of industry, and render all the members of the family hardy and courageous; and their isolation from the world and its vices will most probably make them simple in their tastes and unaffected in their manners. But, at the same time, they must—almost necessarily—become narrow-minded, one-sided in their views, and ignorant; while their boldness degenerates into rudeness, and they speedily lose all traces of that refinement of feeling and manners which add such a charm to social life, and particularly to the domestic circle.

The younger members grow up as rough and rude as their elder brothers and sisters; and without their father is capable of attending to their education during the long winter months, they run a chance of getting very little indeed; for the school—such as it is—is most likely some way off, and with a return of fine weather generally comes a wish to turn their services to account at home on the farm.

And now, without foreign aid, our settler cannot add to his field, nor hardly to his garden or orchard; they will produce year after year near about the same in quantity and quality, and fetching about the same price. His cattle may increase, but there must also be some end to that; so that, after allowing that certainly the farm has increased in value, we may safely say that our settler has gone the length of his tether—this is the crowning point of his fortunes. Yet he has achieved nothing so brilliant, after all his toil and anxiety.

We will even marry off his daughters for him, to two clodhoppers from neighbouring farms, and his sons shall be blessed with the two fair daughters of some former inhabitant of Erin vegetating in the neighbourhood; yet, in spite of these smiles of fortune, he is not very high up in the social scale—he has certainly not drawn the highest prize in the world's lottery.

Let us now see how far fortune favours the other family, arrived in *California* with a capital of 2,000 dollars.

	DOLLARS.
They buy 640 acres of land, at 1¼ dollars per acre .	800
A house is built—not a block-house, but of substantial boards—and they then fence in 90 acres . . .	600
Agricultural implements, cows, oxen, horses, poultry, &c.	500
The rest is laid out in seeds, provisions, &c. . .	100
Total	2,000

Besides his field, our settler lays out a garden and an orchard, which very soon begin to make large returns. The fruit-trees will shoot up ten or eleven feet the first year, and bear large crops the second. His cows will calve, and these latter will themselves calve two years after (*i. e.*, as *two-year old animals!*)—so prolific is everything in this country.

To return to his field—this will produce at least twenty-five bushels to the acre, or something like 2,250 bushels, which, taken at the lowest valuation, will fetch in the market 3,000 dollars. In fact, all his produce—corn, vegetables, fruit, and cattle—will increase about three times as fast as will be the case with the Wisconsin family.

Meanwhile he suffers neither from the cold in winter nor from the drought in summer; he can work in his field or garden all the year round, raising in the latter abundant supplies of vegetables even in mid-winter; and he needs no large fire to keep his family from being frozen to death during a great portion of the year, as is the case in some of the states of the Union. He has always easy communication with the neighbouring towns and villages, and a ready and profitable market for his produce. He hears all the news, and sees society; his children can obtain a good education at a

moderate cost, or even gratis. He loses nothing of the refinement he brought with him from the old country; and, with money in his pocket, the conveniences and even luxuries of life are within his reach.

In short, while the Wisconsin family remains comparatively poor and uneducated, progressing but slowly—retrograding, even, in some respects—the Californian settler becomes rapidly rich, and his family go on improving, both morally, mentally, and physically.

We will follow these two families through five years of their experiences in the land of their adoption, and make a calculation of their respective gains.

Viewing the proceedings of the Wisconsin family in a favourable light, their profits will be as follows:—

The first year:—

25 acres of corn, at 20 bushels to the acre	500 bushels		
Home consumption	200 „		
	300 „	at 75 cents,	225 dollars
Two additional calves			20 dollars
Additional pigs			20 „
Additional poultry			10 „
			50 „

The produce of the kitchen-garden will be all used on the farm.

The second year:—

25 acres of corn, producing	600 bushels		
Home consumption	200 „		
	400 „	at 75 cents,	300 dollars
Increase in cattle			30 dollars
„ pigs			30 „
„ poultry			20 „
			80 „

Third year:—

30 acres of corn	800 bushels		
Home consumption	250 „		
	550 „	at 75 cents,	412·50 dollars
Sale of vegetables, melons, &c.			50·00 „
			462·50 „

Increase in value of cattle . . .	50 dollars
„ „ „ pigs	40 „
„ „ „ poultry . . .	30 „
	120 „

Fourth year:—

30 acres of corn .	800 bushels		
For home use .	250 „		
	550 „	at 75 cents,	412·50 dollars
Produce of kitchen-garden			50·00 „
Sale of fruit			25·00 „
			487·50

Increase in value of cattle . . .	80 dollars
„ „ „ pigs . . .	60 „
„ „ „ poultry . . .	40 „
	180 „

Fifth year:—

30 acres of corn . .	800 bushels		
For home use . .	250 „		
	550 „	at 75 cents,	412·50 dollars
Produce of kitchen-garden			60·00 „
Sale of fruit			30·00 „
			502·50 „

Increase in value of cattle . . .	100 dollars
„ „ „ pigs . . .	60 „
„ „ „ poultry . .	50 „
	210 „

We have, therefore,—

First year's cash profits . . .	225·00 dollars
Second ditto	300·00 „
Third ditto	462·50 „
Fourth ditto	487·50 „
Fifth ditto	502·50 „
	1,977·50 „

Increased value of live stock:—

	DOLLARS.
First year	50
Second year	80
Third year	120
Fourth year	180
Fifth year	210
	640

We will say that live stock to the amount of 400 dollars was sold for cash, reducing the supposed sum for increased value of live stock to 240 dollars, and bringing the total of cash received up to . . .	2,377	50
Expenses of the family on all heads, say 300 dollars a year	1,500	0
Balance . .	877	50
Their 640 acres have increased in value one dollar per acre; increased value therefore . . .	640	0
Balance of increase of live stock . . .	240	0
Net profit for the five years . .	1,757	50

This remaining cash may be expended either in further improvements, or in obtaining help in working the farm, or perhaps in adding to its extent.

All persons acquainted with Wisconsin, or the other western states of the Union, will acknowledge that we have rendered all justice to the exertions of our settlers, that we have given them the benefit of every doubtful supposition; in fact, that in recording the above result, we have rather dealt *too favourably* with them, than depreciated the value of either their capital or their exertions. This result must be the effect of *hard work* and *good luck*—or, at least, the almost total *absence of ill luck*. They will also freely acknowledge that by far the greater number of emigrants of the above class never approach the state of prosperity we have supposed, but remain poor, and struggle on for ever. No injustice has been done them in our suppositions—on the contrary.

What report can we give of the progress of the Californian family in the same time? Let us see.

Edward Lewis & G.Bohm, 15, Coleman Str. London

FARMING SCENE IN NAPA VALLEY

		DOLLARS.
First year:—		
90 acres of wheat, at 25 bushels per acre,	2,250	
For home consumption . .	200	
	2,050 at 1 dollar,	2,050
Balance of garden produce, &c. .		100
		2,150
	DOLLARS.	
Increase in cattle . . .	80	
„ pigs . .	40	
„ poultry . . .	30	
	150	
Second year:—	DOLLARS.	DOLLARS.
90 acres of wheat, producing net .		2,050
Garden produce . . .		200
Fruit		100
		2,350
Increase in value of cattle, pigs, poultry, &c.	250	
Third year:—		
100 acres of wheat, producing net .		2,500
Garden produce and fruit . .		400
		2,900
Increase in cattle, pigs, &c. .	350	
Fourth year:—		
100 acres of wheat . .		2,500
Garden produce and fruit . .		600
		3,100
Increase in cattle, &c. . .	650	
Fifth year:—		
100 acres of wheat . . .		2,500
Garden produce and fruit . .		700
		3,200
Increase in cattle, &c. . .	800	
Thus we have:—		
Cash profits on produce sold, first year . .		2,150
„ „ second year . .		2,350
„ „ third year . .		2,900
„ „ fourth year . .		3,100
„ „ fifth year . .		3,200
Total cash profits . .		13,700

well-being of their fellow-creatures, take all these things into consideration, ascertain the correctness of our statements, and then act as their judgment may dictate. In this way the condition of the emigrant will be bettered, and California will profit by the addition of industrious and willing hands; the increasing prosperity of California reacting, again, upon that of the emigrant.

A few words on *animal life* in general will not come amiss, before concluding our Chapter on Agriculture, the rearing of domestic animals being so intimately connected with the tilling of the soil. Domestic animals of all kinds thrive wonderfully, are very prolific, and very healthy. Our horses, even those in common use, are the admiration of everybody, and especially of the new comer; and such a paradise for cows was never discovered, the grass being mos abundant and sweet, and the wild oats in summer yielding a succulent and substantial nourishment.

Cows calve, as a general rule, in the *second* year, without its being in the slightest degree prejudicial to either their health or growth. Cattle increase therefore most rapidly, and stock-raising is highly profitable.

With respect to sheep, the advantages are equally great; in fact, from the coast down to New Mexico, the whole country is one enormous sheep-walk, affording magnificent pasture. Nor can the wonderful capabilities of Australia, in this respect, be compared to those of California. The sheep are almost entirely free from all disease, and are so prolific, that the dropping of one lamb is rather the exception than the rule, and three at a birth is no uncommon thing; so that flocks have been known to increase in one lambing season 180 per cent. It is but lately that agriculturists have begun to appreciate the advantages to be derived from the scientific rearing of sheep; but, ere long, with good management, California will become one of the largest wool-producing countries in the world.

We have prepared from facts some very elaborate and valuable calculations on the breeding of sheep, and the profits to be realized therefrom; these tables are, however, too long to be introduced here, but they demonstrate clearly, that, after making the greatest possible allowances for accidents, deaths, &c., &c., and taking everything at its lowest valuation, a capital invested in sheep-farming will increase *four-*

teenfold in ten years, by the sheep alone, not reckoning the increased value of the farm itself, if the land has been judiciously purchased.

Pigs, and poultry of all kinds, are also extraordinarily healthy, and breed very fast; in fact, in no country in the world do domestic animals thrive so as in California. In this respect, animal and vegetable life seem on a par.

Game is, as might be expected, very plentiful. Wild ducks (of which there are sixty varieties) abound on the banks of the rivers, together with wild geese, swans, cranes, different sorts of snipes, the beautiful Californian quails, and innumerable other smaller birds.

Deer and gazelles exist in vast numbers; the tall elk, and the grizzly bear are also often met with, and their meat sent into the market. Hares and rabbits are very numerous.

In fact, the markets are stocked with excellent beef, mutton, pork, poultry, and the different varieties of game, in quantity and quality not to be surpassed anywhere. The same may be said of the supply of fish; the list including magnificent salmon, sturgeon, turbot, flat-fish, smelts, and herrings, lobsters, crabs, oysters, mussels, prawns, shrimps, and other crustacea, all large, and of excellent quality; together with fine mountain-trout, and other fresh-water fish. The show of vegetables and fruit is totally unrivalled, either in size or quality.

Salmon is extensively dried and smoked, and shipped to all parts of the world.

The *Californian Farmer* for October, contains the following:—

"The fishing for the last two months on the Sacramento river, has been very productive; at least three thousand barrels have been salted from the 20th of August to the 20th of October, and about forty thousand fish sold fresh in the same space of time. To my knowledge fifteen hundred barrels have, and will be shipped to New York, Australia, and other markets, within the next thirty days. The exports are increasing yearly, owing to the improvements made in curing these fish, over former seasons.

"Some idea may be formed of the quantity at the old river or Cache creek, the latter part of September of this year, when two men with one gill-net made of shoe thread, have actually taken 221 salmon in one night, averaging eighteen pounds each, and in two instances the nets have sunk and been lost from the weight of salmon in them.

"We notice the Great Fish—a species of Bass, which was caught in a seine at Saucelito, last week. With one exception it is the largest ever caught on this coast. Its dimensions are as follows:—weight 187 pounds, length 6 feet 2 inches, girth of the body 4 feet 2 inches, girth of the head 3 feet 4 inches, width of the tail 2 feet; colour of the flesh, reddish white. The fish was of fine form, and the scales (some of which we have preserved) were nearly the size of a quarter of a dollar."

Joe Mantonists or the disciples of Izaak Walton would find California a country far exceeding their *beau ideal* of what a sporting country ought to be; while the lovers of more exciting sports would be enabled to gratify their taste in bear-hunting, and such like.

Grizzly bears, pumas, and cayotas (a species of small wolf, but a great coward), constitute the only class of wild and dangerous animals. Grizzly bears still muster in goodly numbers, but pumas are now rarely met with. But neither the one nor the other need form the source of any apprehension on the part of the settler, as it is only in the mountainous and totally uninhabited districts, that the traveller becomes aware of their presence.

Our amphibious animals include the classes of lizards and frogs of all kinds, but none of them are poisonous, and the former are met with in the interior, darting quickly over the road as you pass along, some being beautifully coloured, and all being perfectly innocent; frogs you see very seldom, but you become aware of their presence at night, when from every pool of water in the neighbourhood you hear their voices give forth a thousand different sounds; a most curious, often not unmelodious concert.

Our snakes are small, and include the rattlesnake, copper-snake, &c., amongst the poisonous, with a large variety of innocent beautifully coloured snakes. The poisonous snakes are getting scarcer as cultivation advances, and no fears need be entertained on their account.

Large snakes, such as boas, and other dangerous brutes of that kind, as well as alligators, are unknown in California.

The insect world of California presents a great and interesting variety, but few of them are troublesome or poisonous. We have, to be sure, a goodly army of common house flies (and most impudent and enterprising they are); we also have mosquitos towards the south, and that eternal companion of man, the sprightly flea. But these insects exist everywhere more or less. A certain species of grasshopper is the only really troublesome insect; and instances have been known where swarms of them have committed ravages in some of the valleys of the Sierra Nevada, but the damage done has been very slight.

We are, however, entirely free from the pest of bugs, nasty caterpillars, &c., and know nothing of the vile and numerous insects

that, as we hear from Australia, rob a man of his rest by night, and of his comforts by day.

The total absence of slugs and caterpillars in our vegetables, such as cabbages, cauliflowers, celery, &c., is a boon which only a Californian can appreciate.

With respect to the production of honey, we think we cannot do better than quote the following extract from the report of the committee of the State Agricultural Society:—

"The committee were much interested in a visit to the garden of F. G. Appleton. The grounds are very tastefully arranged, but what principally attracted their attention was the apiary. Mr. A. has about one hundred swarms of bees, which are doing extremely well. The swarms which Mr. A. had last spring have produced from two to four swarms each. The honey which has been taken from them is of the finest quality. The experiments which have been thus far made with bees, give every assurance that there is no country in the world superior to California for the honey bee. From *one swarm* the present year *four swarms* were taken, and from two of these *again one swarm each*, making *six swarms* in one season from one hive.

"The committee desire to speak of a remarkable case of success in the product of the bee. Mr. Briggs, of San José, brought out with him the present year from the States, a large swarm of bees. From this one swarm, EIGHT SWARMS have been hived the present season. We believe there is no parallel case to such a product on record, and we believe the same prolific character is manifest in all natural history, here, as well as in the products of farm, grain field, and orchard."

California possesses also a peculiar species of silkworm, called *saturnea ceanothii*, discovered by Dr. Behr, a gentleman of high standing as a naturalist, who, in conjunction with ourselves, took a great interest in its development. The peculiar characteristics of this silkworm are the following:—It is of enormous size, being three times as large as the bombyx variety; it is very healthy and very hardy; the fineness and at the same time the strength of the fibre are remarkable; the cocoon is often double, and sometimes even treble, one fold within the other; it thrives on a plant growing all over Europe, even as far north as Sweden, the *ramnus catharticus* (buckthorn, Kreuzdorn); it may be reared in the open air, and remains five months and a half in cocoon.

The advantages attendant upon the discovery and cultivation of this species of silkworm are incalculable, not only to America, but also to the whole of Europe. We have already forwarded cocoons to several parts of Germany, including a batch for the government of

Prussia. The matter seems to excite great interest, and subsequent experiments will prove the immense value of the discovery.

To the botanist, the conchologist, the entomologist, the geologist, —and, in a word, to naturalists of all classes, California affords a wide field for further discovery and observation.

We asserted at the commencement of this chapter that California's agricultural resources were wonderful, and we think that, after perusal of the facts stated above, there will be little doubt left in the mind of the reader as to the truth of that assertion. Let him but call to mind our remarks with respect to the mineral wealth of the country, —its gold, silver, copper, quicksilver, &c.; the salubrity of its climate, the fertility of its soil, its magnificent pastures, and wonderful vegetation in general; the favourable effects of the climate and soil upon the health and productiveness of all domestic animals; and, what may be attributed in a great measure to a combination of the above advantages, the growing importance of California's commercial transactions. All foreshadows the future greatness and prosperity of the state.

Can the mind of man imagine a spot on the earth's surface more richly endowed by nature with all that constitutes his happiness here below? Can he conceive grander or sublimer sights than those which nature presents to his wondering gaze in this favoured land?

Can there then be another country under the sun better adapted to reconcile the poor emigrant to loss of fatherland and loss of friends? Here he can begin life again under more favourable auspices, and lay the foundation of the future happiness of himself and his family. We should wish to see thousands come out to California, and exchange a life of never-ending care and anxiety—of unremitting and ill-requited toil, for one in which one's labour is remunerative, and soon raises him above all cares and anxieties about his daily bread, tinges his cheek with the ruddy hue of health, and begets in him a freedom of thought and action to which he had hitherto been a stranger; at the same time that a contemplation of Nature in some of her most lavish moods, and in some of her grandest forms, leads one to form a more correct and exalted idea of the bounty and almighty power of the Creator.

In order to enhance the value of this little work to the emigrant, we have given, further on, a description of several of the different routes to California, together with other pieces of useful information of the like nature. We have also given hints to emigration societies, especially those in Germany, as to how they may best promote the future well-being of the thousands who trust to them for advice and support, on leaving the land of their fathers. And contrary to the general idea, the reader will perhaps be surprised to find us assert, that the journey to California, when properly managed, is neither so long, nor so tedious, nor so dangerous, nor so expensive, as one to Wisconsin or Missouri, or even to Australia.

The following is contained in the *Californian Farmer's Journal* for October:—

"We received from Mr. Kirke two apples, from a tree of two years' growth in his garden in that place, which measured 13½ inches in circumference. He has a tree that now has the second crop this season, the first crop having ripened in July. The apples growing upon it this time are about the size of an ordinary hen's egg.

"The Weston Apple.—It was of the Gloria Mundi species, weighed 33½ ounces, and measured 16 inches in circumference; it was raised by Abraham Fine, of Sonoma county. It was no small feat to exhibit the biggest apple at such a fair, therefore let it be known as the 'Weston Apple.'

"Great Apple.—A splendid apple of the Gloria Mundi species was shown in this city the present week, weighing 37 ounces, but on referring to our report of the state fair at San José of 1856, we see an apple exhibited by the Hon. C. P. Hester, weighing 37 ounces also."

THE PROSPECTS OF THE LABOURER, THE MECHANIC, THE DOMESTIC SERVANT, &c., IN CALIFORNIA.

To all intending emigrants of the above classes every scrap of correct information concerning their prospects in their future home must evidently be acceptable.

In the first years of California's existence as a gold-producing country, all labour was frightfully high, 15, 20, and 30 dollars a day being the ruling prices. Common servant maids received 150 dollars a month; cooks, 200 dollars and upwards: other labour was in proportion. Those golden days are gone by, but still wages are very high.

We will, therefore, premise the following observation:—

Rates of labour for all kinds of mechanics, servants, &c., are still very high—higher than elsewhere; and whilst living is less expensive than in Australia, labour in the aggregate is paid three times as high as in that country.

Many a maid-of-all-work or scullery maid receives as high a salary as a judge in Germany; many a negro gets as much as a major or colonel in the Prussian service; and errand boys of ten years of age earn more than double the pay of a European lieutenant of the line. The same, in proportion, with porters, clerks, &c., who get the pay of high officials in Europe. And what is more, they are not obliged to spend all these high wages. If economical and provident, they may put by a considerable sum year after year.

All rates of labour are naturally dependent upon the amount a man can earn at the mines, either working on his own account or in the pay of some one else.

CALIFORNIAN RIVER STEAMER.

No able-bodied labourer, knowing that at the mines he could make 5 dollars a day with his pickaxe and spade, would think of accepting employment in the towns as a mason or so forth at 3 dollars a day; but if the same man be skilled, through previous apprenticeship or otherwise, in the production of some article for which there is a great demand in the cities, he will then be enabled to obtain a salary equal to, or greater, than what he could get at the mines, and in that case would, in all probability, prefer the town.

Thus it is evident that the rates of remuneration at the gold mines must serve as a sort of standard for wages in the towns and cities; although there are many who, being either physically weak, or wanting in mental or moral energy, cannot compete with their more robust and fortunate fellow creatures, and are obliged to content themselves with wages ranging below the average rate of remuneration. Still, their earnings are great, and under proper management would, at the end of the year, show a handsome balance in their favour.

Except, perhaps, at the diggings, no great physical force or powers of endurance are requisite to lead to the acquirement of wealth in this country, where, on the whole, the labour is much lighter than in Europe; so that any man, with an average amount of strength of body, and of moral and mental energy, combined with a little proper pride, and something of that independence of spirit so easily acquired under the liberal institutions of the United States, *is certain* to do well in California, either by engaging in pursuits in accordance with his former habits, or by taking up some other occupation he may find suitable to his capabilities and advantageous to his pocket.

Supposing that all of a sudden a thousand carpenters were to land at San Francisco, without a proportionate number of mechanics of other kinds, carpenters' labour would immediately fall in the market, and the consequence would be that some would go to the mines, and others turn their hands to something else. Such a disproportion has actually existed, though not long, with respect to carpenters, and also partially with other classes of mechanics.

These were, however, extreme cases; and the number of mechanics

Granite dressers, from 3 to 5 dollars.
Hatters, 50 to 75 dollars per month, and found.
House painters, from 3 to 4 dollars a day.
Jewellers, 5 and 7 dollars and more per day.
Limeburners, 50 to 75 dollars per month, and found.
Lapidaries, 5 to 10 dollars a day.
Lumber men, 50 to 100 dollars per month, and found.
Metal-burners, 3½ to 5 dollars per day.
Marble-cutters, 3 to 5 dollars a day.
Millers, 5 to 7 dollars a day, and good ones are in request.
Mates of vessels, 50 to 150 dollars per month, and found.
Ostlers, 25 to 50 dollars a month, and found.
Pilots, about 200 dollars a month.
Riggers, 6 dollars a day.
Sailmakers, 5 and 6 dollars a day.
Ship-smiths, 5 to 6 dollars a day.
Stonemasons, 5 to 6 dollars a day.
Shoemakers, 2 to 3 dollars a day, and found.
Stewards, 75 to 100 dollars per month, and found.
Seamen, 20 dollars a month, half in advance; for coasters, 30 dollars per month.
Tinworkers, 2½ to 4½ dollars per day.
Tailors, 2½ to 6 dollars.
Upholsterers, 75 to 100 dollars per month, and found.
Wheelwrights, 4 to 5 dollars a day.
Watchmakers, 5 to 8 dollars.
Waiters, from 35 to 60 dollars per month, and found.

The above are the wages paid journeymen as published in 1856. The profits of principals are of course in proportion. Emigrants with capital would, however, do well, on first coming out, to get employment some time as assistants, in order to learn the peculiarities of the trade as practised in California. Clever and saving journeymen often put by enough in a short time to set up for themselves, and, with industry and energy, they are sure to do well, for these qualities are the essential ones—combined, of course, with integrity and economy—for getting on in the world, and especially in California.

Of clerks and store-porters there is a sufficiency, as is the case almost everywhere. When employed, however, clerks get good salaries, varying, according to merit, from 80 and 100 to 400 dollars per month. Porters earn from 50 to 125 dollars per month.

Enterprising young business men, if they have a little money, can do very well; but they must first learn the peculiarities of trade in California. They can then go to the mines, perhaps, and open a little store of some sort, launching out prudently, from time to time, into some new enterprise—now dealing in grain, now in cattle—and all the while laying the foundation of future wealth. To clerks, and such young men without capital, we should advise a visit to and stay for some time at the mines. If industrious, they can there save up enough money to undertake something by-and-by, besides getting an insight into Californian life and habits, which is of great use to such persons ever afterwards.

It must not, however, be supposed that California is a paradise for the idle. No one will make a fortune without exerting himself. "Roast pigeons don't fly into one's mouth," as the German proverb goes. If a man aims at a competence, he must work; if at more, he must work hard, and, as we said before, with intelligence and judgment.

The people in California are very active, intelligent, and sharp in business matters; and he who will deal with them on terms advantageous to himself, must also be intelligent and fully alive to his own interests, else he will find these same Californians more than a match for him. The riches of California are not for the sluggard. Industry, energy, and a judicious economy, are the passports to wealth.

The wages quoted above as received by mechanics are quite sufficient for their support, and leave a broad margin for saving, if they are disposed to do so; but articles of luxury are easily obtainable in California, and unfortunately many people launch out into habits of extravagance and dissipation, in striking contrast with their former frugal way of living, necessitated, perhaps, by poverty, or tolerated from the force of habit. But now, with a few surplus dollars in the pocket, and hopes of soon obtaining more, they begin to live away, and soon spend all their earnings, and are then obliged to

turn to again, if not incapacitated by a career of enervating inactivity —often of gambling and dissipation.

Large importations of articles of luxury were forced into the market from all parts of the world; this created a taste for such things, and in time induced most extravagant habits.

But in the matter of mere living, it can be done as moderately and comfortably here as elsewhere, for most provisions are cheaper in California than even in Europe.* Let the emigrant avoid yielding to the first temptation to extravagance, and remain careful and sober—enterprising and energetic in the pursuit of gold, but also clever at fixing such a slippery customer. In this way he may calculate upon soon acquiring such a portion of this world's goods as will render his position in it more and more comfortable with each succeeding year.

This extravagance is a stumbling-block to the intending emigrant. He says, "Yes; I dare say I can gain so-and-so in California, but I shall be obliged to spend it again for living." *No such thing.* He is not obliged to be extravagant because others are so; he can be sober and saving if he will, and can live almost as cheaply as elsewhere. We are, however, happy to be able to state that these extravagant habits are gradually losing favour with the inhabitants of California.

Within the last year great reforms have been made in the mode of living, and especially since the arrival of so many families, a marked improvement is visible. The beneficial influence of woman upon society has been felt and acknowledged. People have since become more sober, and more settled in their habits: there has been a greater degree of order and arrangement in the time and amount of their work; and although they live well, yet a certain amount of economy is practised, to which they have hitherto been almost total strangers. As this spirit gains ground, extravagance will get more and more out of date, and spendthrifts become

* The *Californian Farmer*, of October 23rd, 1857, says:—"The condition of the various articles of gardening and farm stock is as follows, quoting wholesale prices: Irish potatoes, 50 to 75 cents per bag (2s. to 3s. per 100 lbs.); sweet ditto, 2½ cents per pound; onions, 1½ to 1½ cents; cabbage, 1½ to 1½ cents; beets and carrots, 1 cent; parsnips and turnips, 1 cent; marrow squashes, 10 dollars per ton; white beans, per pound, 4 cents; string ditto, 5 cents; Chili or coloured bean, 5 cents. The above are the trade prices at the landings —they may vary a little at the markets in lots."

rarer; thus the emigrant will not be then thrown so easily off his guard, and induced to deviate from those rules of sobriety and frugality he had laid down for his observance before coming into the country.

The following statement of rates of labour ruling in Australia, when compared with the wages received in California, speaks volumes in favour of the latter country:—

SYDNEY CURRENT RATE OF WAGES.

TOWN.

Per day—	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Joiners, full time	12 0	...12 0
Ditto, short ditto	10 0	...11 8
Painters	8 0	...12 0
Carpenters, full	10 0	...12 0
Ditto, short	10 0	...11 8
Plumbers	12 0	...15 0
Plasterers	13 0	...15 0
Labourers	9 0	... 0 0
Coopers	12 0	...14 0
Bricklayers	14 0	...16 0
Labourers	9 0	...11 0
Masons, full	12 6	...15 0
Ditto, short	13 6	... 0 0
Labourers	8 6	...10 0
Quarrymen	14 0	...16 0
Blacksmiths	10 0	...14 0
Carters	8 0	...10 0
Engineers	10 0	...15 0
Shipwrights	12 0	... 0 0
Tinplate workers	10 0	...12 0
Tailors	9 0	...12 0
Wheelwrights	10 0	...12 0

Per week—	£ *s.*	£ *s.*
Printing work	3 10	...3 12
Compositors on the 'stab'	3 12	...4 0
Bookbinders	2 10	...4 0
Bakers	2 10	...3 0
Boot and shoemakers	3 0	...0 0
Watchmakers	4 0	...5 0
Pastrycooks	2 10	...3 0
Men cooks (board)	0 15	...1 0
Butchers (ditto)	1 5	...2 0
Cabinetmakers	2 10	...3 0
Soap boilers	3 0	...3 10
Storemen	2 0	...2 5
Light porters	2 0	...2 5

Per annum (*found*)—	£
Male servants	£35...40
Cooks	40...60
Coachmen	50...60
Grooms	40...45
Gardeners	35...45
Female cooks	26...30
Married couples	50...60
General female servants	20...28
Housemaids	20...26
Laundresses	26...30
Nursemaids	20...25

COUNTRY.

Per annum, with rations—

[Flour, 8 to 12lbs.; meat, 10 to 14 lbs.; sugar, 2 lbs.; tea, ¼ lb. weekly.]

	£
Farm labourers	£28...31
Ditto, married couples	40...50
Storemen	52 00
Hutkeepers	25...27
Garden labourers	30...35
Stockmen	35...40
Bullock drivers	40...45
Ditto, on roads	50...55
Horse drivers	30...35
Ploughmen	30...35
Surveyor's men	30...40
Shepherds	25...30
Ditto, with families	50...55
Blacksmiths	65...70
Carpenters	52...60

Masons, without rations, per day 10*s.*
Quarrymen ditto ditto 8*s.*

The *fair sex* are still considerably in the minority in the state of California. The scarcity is not perhaps so visible, at first sight, in the towns and villages, for most men of business and professionals

have their families with them; and the large towns can boast of numerous fine villas, indicative of a certain amount of family life. Yet there are a great number of young unmarried men who are tired of a bachelor's life, and having the means of establishing a little domestic circle, are very desirous of meeting with some member of the opposite sex to join them in contributing to form this social paradise.

Marriageable ladies are, therefore, not likely to become a drug in the market for some time to come, if ever. On the contrary, a vast number could at this present moment make excellent matches, and, if desirous, in an incredibly short space of time. Any decent-faced woman would soon receive more offers than she could read in an hour.

Fathers of families abroad might take this matter into consideration. Most women, coming to California, marry considerably above their previous condition in life, even without possessing a penny; and many a well-educated young man, with excellent family connections at home, is anxiously awaiting the arrival of some charmer who will spare him the trouble and expense of leaving his business affairs, &c., to travel home for the purpose of seeking a fair lady himself. Few can afford to do so.

Ladies need not fear any privation or discomfort out here. We have fine houses, elegant furniture, and everything to correspond. In fact, we venture to assert that families of the same condition in life abroad are not so comfortably housed, or live so well, as the same families would do in California; and no female could wish for finer dresses, or more brilliant ornaments, than are to be had in this country.

One drawback to real comfort exists in the scarcity of female servants, and the high wages they ask. This latter circumstance is, of course, a consequence of the high rates of labour in general; and a person of tact may do a great deal towards lessening this evil. Good-looking girls so soon get married, and mostly into a higher circle; and there is an almost continual change of servants, which is far from agreeable.

Female servants, besides being found in food, lodging, &c., are paid at the following rates:—

First-rate cooks, 150 to 200 dollars a month, equal to £360 and £480 per annum.

Second-rate cooks, 60 to 100 dollars a month, or £144 and £240 per annum.

Third-rate cooks, 30 to 50 dollars a month, or £72 and £120 per annum.

Upper nurses, 40 to 75 dollars per month, or £96 and £180 per annum.

Under nurses, 20 to 40 dollars per month, or £48 and £96 per annum.

Upper housemaids, 50 to 75 dollars per month; or £120 and £180 per annum.

Under housemaids, 20 to 40 dollars per month; or £48 and £96 per annum.

Little girls, from 12 to 15 years old, 15 to 20 dollars per month; or £36 and £48 per annum.

These wages are very high, and when we consider how very little these servants have to purchase, being found in board and lodging, it is evident that, if provident and saving, they may lay by a pretty penny in the course of a year or two. Many that are so save themselves a handsome wedding portion; others, again, squander away their earnings in costly silks, shawls of great price, jewellery, &c.

A San Francisco servant maid, out for a holiday, rivals a duchess in the richness of her robes, the brilliancy of her shawls, the finery about her bonnet, and in the numerous and massive gold ornaments, and other trinkets; but the want of taste displayed in the arrangement of the whole, the awkwardness and often vulgarity of her manners, together with an unmistakeable expression of countenance, —all indicate at once her origin and present position.

Now, a servant might dress well, and even indulge in a certain amount of finery and ornament; but it is clear that, notwithstanding, she may save up a good round sum in the course of a twelvemonth or so. We ourselves had a nurse in our service last year at 40 dollars per month; she had been in the country for several years, and when wages were much higher than at present. This woman had been prudent and saving, and by her economy, and lending out

her money through an agent at large interest, she had amassed in six years something like 8,000 dollars.

From the statement of the wages of servants, and of their social position as described above, it will be needless to remark, that any young woman from Europe, willing to go out to service, would here find a most remunerative field for her exertions, and would in all probability soon get married to some thriving young man of business, anxious for a partner to share his fortunes. We wish that thousands of those who now advertise in the *Times*, and other papers, under the head "*Want places*," could be sent out here! They would find good places, and good pay; and families here would greatly feel the benefit of such an accession to the number of those necessary appendages to a family, cooks, housemaids, nurses, &c.

From these accounts marriageable young ladies in Europe will be able to judge of the prospects of family life in California. Let them bear in mind that our gentlemen do not marry for money, the absence of fortune on the part of a wife being a matter of little consideration. Whilst on the one hand the fastidious and fashionable young lady would have no difficulty in finding a partner ready and willing to indulge her to the full in all innocent pleasures—which may be obtained here as well as in Europe—the lady of careful and domestic habits would easily find some enterprising husband, whose growing fortunes it would be her pleasure to keep together, and materially increase by strict economy and prudent management. Such ladies may also be assured that we have in California circles of society as refined and as highly educated as are to be found in Europe.

What more can we say in favour of female emigration? Are not the facts stated above of a nature to set a-thinking the less fortunate members of the female population of the British isles? And are not the inducements held out strong enough to stir up the laudable ambition of some to better their condition in the world, and infuse courage into their minds to adopt the means necessary to so desirable an end? We think so; and in this hope entreat our female readers to dwell upon our remarks on this head, and give them the benefit of mature consideration.

Edward Lewis & G.Bohn, 16, Coleman St. London.

CALIFORNIAN STEAM-SHIP ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

THE DIFFERENT ROUTES TO CALIFORNIA.

The question—*How shall I get to California?* will naturally be the first asked by the intending emigrant after carefully perusing the preceding portion of this little work, and becoming convinced of the superior advantages which this country presents for his purpose.

A few words from us, with a glance at the annexed map, will suffice to put him in possession of the requisite information as to the different routes, and their respective advantages and disadvantages.

There are, then, three principal ways of getting to California:—

1. By a direct sea passage round Cape Horn to San Francisco, a distance of 17,000 miles, and of from four to five months' duration.

2. By going by sea to Aspinwall, crossing the isthmus by rail to Panama, and then taking ship to San Francisco. This is a journey of about 7,150 miles, and would take from thirty-three to forty-four days.

3. By taking ship to New York or New Orleans, and then proceeding overland through the United States, passing along the upper part of the valley of the Missouri, and crossing the chain of the Rocky Mountains. The passage out to New York would occupy about a fortnight, and the overland journey from three to four months.

The voyage round Cape Horn is generally performed by sailing vessels taking out cargoes to California. This route is decidedly the simplest, in many respects the most convenient, and also the cheapest. It is, however, as stated above, the longest way, and requires much more time than either of the other two. Sailing vessels with general cargoes leave direct for California from the following European ports: London, Liverpool, Hamburg, Bremen, Le Hâvre, and Bordeaux. There are occasionally departures from Scotland and the coal districts in England, and a few from other parts, but these are

not available for emigrants. Vessels leave English ports for California every three or four months, but not at any stated times. They calculate upon only a few passengers, rarely taking out more than ten. Did, however, a greater demand for passenger accommodation in these vessels spring up, the owners would, no doubt, find it to their interest to adopt means for providing this accommodation, and for increasing the comfort of all passengers taking this route. The cabins of these vessels are generally very comfortable, and the provisions good; and the passage money from any of the above ports would be about £50, including board, but exclusive of wines and spirits. The principal objection to this route is its duration: but with a good stock of reading matter, and agreeable society, the time may be pleasantly whiled away: still, it is a loss of time; and it is desirable for the emigrant to arrive as soon as possible at his destination. And *in the end* this way is also the most expensive; for, by getting to California three or four months earlier by crossing the isthmus, his gains there in that time would far exceed the extra sum expended in taking this latter route. To those of really limited means, however, this route has the advantage of *direct* cheapness.

To the German emigrant Hamburg and Bremen are, of course, the most convenient ports, although both London and Liverpool have their peculiar advantages. The vessels trading between Hamburg and California are generally fine ships, often of 1,000 tons burthen; and should the passenger traffic increase, such vessels being arranged to accommodate say from ten to twenty cabin passengers, and thirty or forty steerage ones, the present rates of passage might be considerably reduced, and the price paid by a cabin passenger be fixed at 200 Prussian dollars, and by one in the steerage 100 dollars.

Again, supposing a certain current of emigration set in from Germany to California, some enterprising shipowner would find it to his advantage to fit up vessels with the special view of taking out emigrants, and to establish a regular line of packets. In such a case the route round Cape Horn might be made still cheaper; and this, together with an increased solicitude for the comfort of the emigrant, would hold out greater inducements for adopting this route. The long sea passage does not seem to affect the health of the passengers;

on the contrary, the immigrants who arrive here round the Cape are the picture of health, and strong and robust; and they uniformly express themselves favourably with respect to the way of coming out.

Those adopting the Isthmus route can perform the journey to Aspinwall in two ways. Firstly, by the Royal Mail Company's steamer to St. Thomas, where another vessel of the same company is in readiness to take passengers on to Aspinwall. The fare to Aspinwall, including provisions, is £38 for the first cabin, and £19 for the second; and the time occupied from sixteen to twenty days. Secondly, by steamer to New York, and thence to Aspinwall. This takes about as long as viâ St. Thomas. The isthmus is crossed by rail in three or four hours by passengers of both routes. But now comes a difference. The passengers viâ New York, on arriving at Panama, find the steamer which is to convey them to San Francisco, with her steam already up, and waiting only for their embarkation and that of their luggage, to get under weigh; and these being, besides, fast steamers, they arrive in California most expeditiously of all. Those arriving viâ St. Thomas are often obliged to remain on the isthmus a week before obtaining a passage for San Francisco, at a cost of from £24 to £30, and steerage from £12 to £15. Passengers by this route have from £3 to £5 to pay for traversing the isthmus. The fares from Europe to New York are—first class, £20; second class, £10. In New York the passage is paid through to San Francisco, first class costing from £40 to £50, steerage £20 to £30. By this route the passenger arrives in San Francisco from Europe in from thirty-two to thirty-seven days. The living on these steamers—either viâ St. Thomas or viâ New York—is excellent. The Isthmus route is available for the emigrant with some little means. The expenses are certainly greater than by the other ways, but the great advantage is that there is so much time gained. We should therefore advise all who can afford it to adopt this way of getting to California.

Emigrants intending to proceed to California overland would have to go either to New York or New Orleans by steamer or sailing

vessel, and then through the States to Missouri. From Missouri they would have to set out on their journey across the immense plains extending some 2,000 miles away to the Rocky Mountains, and requiring from three to four months for the passage. This way would do for some sturdy American farmer, knowing something of the route, and inured to labour and privation; but for the European emigrant it is not advisable, even when the great waggon-road shall have been completed.

With respect to emigration from Germany through societies, &c., we beg to offer a few suggestions. Supposing that emigrants for California presented themselves in sufficient numbers—say from 800 to 1,000—every two months, a line of steamers might be established from one of the above-mentioned German ports to Aspinwall direct, corresponding with a line between Panama and San Francisco. For crossing the isthmus a special arrangement might be entered into for transporting them over at a comparatively cheap rate. By these means the trip to California would be rendered much less expensive and much more rapid. Such an arrangement could only be made supposing the number of emigrants considerable enough to warrant the establishment of such a line of vessels.

From the above it will be seen that there are more roads than one to California, and that it is not such a very difficult thing to get there. It is most decidedly an easier journey than one to the wilds of Missouri, Wisconsin, &c.

We take this opportunity of stating that we shall be most happy to answer any inquiries that may be put to us on the question of emigration to California. At the same time, we feel it to be a duty to ourselves to disavow all connection with any schemes for emigration that may hereafter be started. We are not emigration agents, but our ambition and interest is to impart to the intending emigrant much useful information, and thereby to benefit California. Inquiries and communications may be addressed to *E. Seyd, No. 7, Broad Street Buildings, City, London.*

London: J. & W. Rider, Printers, 14, Bartholomew Close.

The waggon road now being constructed from the Mississippi to California will have military Stations every 15 miles
The Pacific Railroad is almost laid out, and the Act for its construction may pass the Congress next year
There is another crossing of the Isthmus through Nicaragua by Steam Boat up the river San Juan & only 12 miles land
A railroad across Mexico (the Tehuantepec route) is in course of construction

Duration — Routes to California —

- 120 to 150 days — By sailing vessels direct from London, Liverpool, Hamburg or Bremen round Cape Horn
- from 35 to 45 days — „ Steamers from Liverpool, Southampton or Hamburg & Bremen to Aspinwall
- from 33 to 40 days — „ Steamers from Liverpool, London or Hamburg & Bremen (or Sail) to New York or New Orleans, from whence by Steamers to Aspinwall
- from whence by rail in 3 Hours across the Isthmus to Panama
- from Panama to San Francisco by Steamer
- from 10 to 22 Steam 35 to 55 Sail & land travel from 100 to 150 days — „ Steamers or Sail from the above ports to New York or New Orleans, from whence to St Louis
- from St Louis across the plains by Waggons

Longitude 100 West from 80 Greenwich 60 — Longitude 80 East from 100 Greenwich